

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Case No. 09-11435

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In the Matter of:

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC., et al.

Debtors.

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United States Bankruptcy Court

One Bowling Green

New York, New York

March 30, 2009

10:02 AM

B E F O R E:

HON. JAMES M. PECK

U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

1
2 HEARING re Introduction by Paul M. Basta, Partner, Kirkland &
3 Ellis LLP

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5 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Directing
6 Joint Administration of Related Chapter 11 Cases

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8 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Establishing
9 Certain Notice, Case Management and Administrative Procedures

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11 HEARING re Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order
12 Authorizing and Approving the Retention of Kurtzman Carson
13 Consultants LLC as Notice and Claims Agent for the Debtors

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15 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Authorizing
16 the Debtors to (A) Prepare a List of Creditors in Lieu of
17 Submitting a Formatted Mailing Matrix, (B) File a Consolidated
18 List of the Debtors' 80 Largest Unsecured Creditors, and (C)
19 Mail Initial Notices

20
21 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final
22 Orders (I) Authorizing Debtors to Use Cash Collateral, (II)
23 Granting Adequate Protection to Adequate Protection Parties and
24 (III) Scheduling a Final Hearing
25

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2 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final
3 Orders Authorizing Debtors to Enter Into DIP Surety Bond
4 Program

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6 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final
7 Orders (A) Authorizing, But Not Directing, the Debtors to
8 Continue Their Existing Cash Management System, Bank Accounts
9 and Business Forms, (B) Granting Post-Petition Intercompany
10 Claims Administrative Expense Priority, (C) Authorizing
11 Continued Investment of Excess Funds in Investment Accounts and
12 (D) Authorizing Continued Intercompany Arrangements and
13 Historical Practices

14
15 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final
16 Orders Establishing Notification and Hearing Procedures for
17 Transfers of Common Stock

18
19 Hearing Re Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final
20 Orders Authorizing, But Not Directing, the Debtors to (A) Pay
21 Certain Pre-Petition Compensation and Reimbursable Employee
22 Expenses, (B) Pay and Honor Employee Medical and Other Benefits
23 and (C) Continue Employee Wages and Benefits Programs

Hearing re Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final
Orders Authorizing, but not Directing, Debtors to Pay Pre-
Petition Claims of Shippers, Warehousemen and Miscellaneous
Lien Claimants

HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Authorizing,
But Not Directing, Debtors to Honor Certain Pre-Petition
Obligations to Customers and to Otherwise Continue Certain
Customer Programs and Practices in the Ordinary Course of
Business

HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final
Orders Authorizing, But Not Directing, Debtors to (A) Maintain
Pre-Petition Insurance Policies, (B) Enter Into New Insurance
Policies, (C) Maintain Premium Financing Agreements and (D)
Enter Into New Premium Financing Agreements

HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final
Orders (A) Authorizing, But Not Directing, the Debtors to Remit
and Pay Certain Taxes and Fees and (B) Authorizing and
Directing Banks and Other Financial Institutions to Honor
Related Checks and Electronic Payment Requests

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2 HEARING re Joint Motion for Scheduling Conference

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4 HEARING re Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order
5 Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Kirkland & Ellis
6 LLP as Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors In Possession
7 Effective Nunc Pro Tunc to the Petition Date

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9 HEARING re Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order
10 Authorizing the Employment and Retention of AlixPartners, LLP
11 as Their Restructuring Advisor Nunc Pro Tunc to the Petition
12 Date

13
14 HEARING re Debtors' Application for an Order Authorizing the
15 Employment and Retention of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt &
16 Mosle LLP as Conflicts Counsel for the Debtors, Nunc Pro Tunc
17 to the Petition Date

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19 HEARING re Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order
20 Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Friend Hudak and
21 Harris, LLP as Special Telecommunications Counsel to the
22 Debtors

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2 HEARING re Debtors' Application for an Order Authorizing the
3 Employment and Retention of Duff & Phelps, LLC as Valuation
4 Consultants for the Debtors and Debtors-in-Possession Nunc Pro
5 Tunc to the Petition Date

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7 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Determining
8 Adequate Assurance of Payment for Future Utility Services

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10 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Authorizing
11 the Retention and Compensation of Certain Professionals
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14 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Establishing
15 Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of
16 Expenses for Professionals

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18 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Approving
19 Procedures for the Sale, Transfer or Abandonment of De Minimis
20 Assets

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22 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Authorizing
23 Payment of Pre-Petition Claims of Trade Creditors in the
24 Ordinary Course of Business
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2 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Granting
3 Adequate Protection to Second Lien Secured Parties
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5 HEARING re Debtors' Motion for an Order (I) Approving the
6 Disclosure Statement, (II) Establishing a Record Date for
7 Voting on the Plan of Reorganization and the Rights Offering,
8 (III) Approving Solicitation Packages and Procedures for the
9 Distribution Thereof, (IV) Approving the Rights Offering
10 Procedures and Rights Exercise Form, (V) Approving the Forms of
11 Ballots and Manner of Notice, (VI) Approving the Commitment
12 Agreements, (VII) Approving the Commitment Fees, (VIII)
13 Establishing Procedures for Voting on the Plan and (IX)
14 Establishing Notice and Objection Procedures for Confirmation
15 of the Plan
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25 Transcribed by: Lisa Bar-Leib

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THE COURT: Be seated, please. Let's proceed.

MR. BASTA: Good morning, Your Honor. Paul Basta from Kirkland & Ellis. We're proposed counsel to Charter --

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. BASTA: -- and its affiliated debtors. I'm joined today by my partners, Rick Cieri, Ray Schrock, Steve Hessler as well as my litigation partners Jeffrey Powell and Daniel Donovan. We have filed pro hac vice applications for Mssrs. Schrock, Powell and Donovan as they are out-of-towners.

THE COURT: Those will all be approved in due course but let's deem that they are approved as of this moment.

MR. BASTA: Thank you, Your Honor. We also happen to be working with Mr. Togut who is proposed counsel to one of the debtors

MR. TOGUT: Your Honor.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. BASTA: -- Charter Investment, Inc. We're joined today by many people who have been working very hard to bring this case to the Court in an organized way. I would like to introduce Neil Smit. Neil is the chief executive officer of the company and member of the board. We also have Eloise Schmitz who is the company's chief financial officer. Greg Doody is the company's chief restructuring officer and the declarant on our first day declaration. Greer Racklin is the

1 company's general counsel. Our proposed financial advisor is
2 Lazard Freres and we have Jim Millstein and Steve Goldstein who
3 are leading the Lazard team.

4 We'd like to thank the Court and chambers for
5 accommodating us on such short notice and for dealing with a
6 truckload of paper that we delivered to the Court. We'd also
7 like to thank the Office of the United States Trustee. We've
8 been working hard with them and I think we only may have one or
9 two issues open with that office on our first day relief.

10 I've coordinated with counsel for the various parties
11 on the course of today and a recommended approach. And if it's
12 acceptable to the Court, what I'd like to do is to spend some
13 time giving the Court an overview of the case and where we are
14 and where we want to be going. I think Mr. Kornberg and Mr.
15 Goffman would like to make some short statements regarding the
16 proceeding. And I think Mr. Pantaleo, who represents our
17 lenders and who are opposing reinstatement under our plan,
18 would like to be heard for some time. And then after that, we
19 would then proceed to our first day relief which we hope will
20 be routine.

21 THE COURT: That order of proceeding is fine with me.

22 MR. BASTA: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, this
23 is the most extraordinary company and case I've ever seen.
24 Charter, on the one hand, it's enormous. Its assets are
25 performing. It generates tremendous income, its management is

1 world class. Its business isn't founded on any speculative
2 technology. And the cable business in this economy is not an
3 extremist. It's doing fine. There is a lot of demand for the
4 cable and telecommunication services that the company provides.
5 And so, many of the usual suspects that bring a company into
6 Chapter 11 are just not present in this situation.

7 The company has 21.7 billion dollars of debt and with
8 that debt load is certainly one of the largest companies to
9 ever commence Chapter 11. And with more than 2.3 billion
10 dollars of EBITDA, Charter comes into this case with stronger
11 operations and more EBITDA than WorldCom, Calpine or Adelphia
12 had at the time of their filing. We believe this is the
13 largest pre-arranged case ever filed.

14 After months of effort and painful negotiations, we
15 filed on the petition date our plan and disclosure statement
16 and the dozens and dozens of documents it takes to effectuate
17 confirmation. The company, the Paul Weiss team led by Mr.
18 Kornberg, who represents our bondholders, the Skadden team, who
19 represents Mr. Allen, our largest stockholder, and all of the
20 financial advisors have been working around the clock to
21 accomplish this filing. And we stand ready to proceed directly
22 to a disclosure statement hearing, a confirmation hearing and
23 an exit from Chapter 11 that will preserve the value of this
24 terrific enterprise.

25 My presentation will cover Charter and its business,

1 the circumstances that led to the filing, the plan and the
2 capital structure, and you have to take them in tandem, and
3 we'll spend some time on it. It'll be -- it's a bit complex.
4 It'll take some time to get through it but I think that
5 exercise will be worthwhile. We'll touch upon reinstatement
6 which is probably the key issue in the case, and I know Mr.
7 Pantaleo plans on covering it as well. And then I'll turn to
8 the timeline of the next steps.

9 So let's begin with Charter. It really is a
10 fantastic company. It's based in St. Louis and it employs
11 16,500 people. It's the fourth largest cable operator in the
12 country. It operates in twenty-seven states. It has five a
13 half million customers including 9,000 schools. And it
14 provides all of the services that you would expect from a world
15 class cable operator.

16 It has done well over the last two years. And I have
17 a few visuals. And I'd like to start with one. Jonathan, if
18 you could put the one -- we have extra copies if people can't
19 see it. Can you see that, Your Honor?

20 THE COURT: I can.

21 MR. BASTA: As this chart indicates, between 2006 and
22 2007, Charter revenue increased 10.7 percent and then from 2007
23 to 2008, it increased another eight and a half percent to 6.5
24 billion dollars. On the adjusted EBITDA, on 2006 -- it grew
25 from 2006 to 2007 by 11.7 percent and then by another 10.3

1 percent in 2008. And it experienced an increased margin during
2 that same time period.

3 We have 700 million dollars in cash and we don't need
4 a DIP financing. And we've worked out a consensual order for
5 the use of cash collateral with Mr. Pantaleo's clients that Mr.
6 Schrock will present later today.

7 So what's the problem? The problem is too much debt.
8 With 21.7 billion dollars of debt, Charter is about 8.9 times
9 levered compared to its EBITDA. And many of its peers have
10 debt about 4.2 times EBITDA which means that Charter each year
11 is paying hundreds of millions of dollars of interest expense
12 that is just too much. In fact, the proposed plan that we
13 presented reduces our annual interest expense by 830 million
14 dollars and this is money that can be reinvested into the
15 business.

16 The secondary problem is the dysfunctionality in the
17 credit markets. In these markets, Charter has limited ability
18 to access the creditor markets to deal with its debt and to
19 ease maturities.

20 So how did the company deal with its leverage
21 problem? In November of '08, the company hired Kirkland and it
22 hired its longtime financial advisor, Lazard, to help explore
23 deleveraging transactions. And the company and Kirkland and
24 Lazard sat down and brainstormed about what the path forward
25 was. And in December, we organized certain of our holding

1 company bondholders -- there are two legal entities that I'm
2 going to spend some time with later in the presentation, CCH I
3 and CCH II. And those bondholders hired Mr. Kornberg and his
4 team and they hired UBS and Houlihan Lokey as financial
5 advisors. And throughout this whole process, we've been
6 working very closely with Mr. Goffman and his team at Skadden
7 who represent Paul Allen. They're also working with Miller
8 Buckfire. And in the beginning of the process, it was mostly
9 due diligence, getting the bondholders up to speed with the
10 financial situation. And on January 15th, Your Honor, interest
11 payments were due on certain of the holding company debt. And
12 the company determined not to make those interest payments and
13 to make use of the thirty-day grace period under the bond debt
14 to negotiate with the creditors on the terms of a
15 restructuring. And from January 15th to February 13th, during
16 that grace period, we really spent a tremendous amount of
17 time, we're working round the clock on trying to get to a
18 framework for a restructuring.

19 At the same time, we were preparing for Chapter 11.
20 We got all of our papers ready and we were ready to file on
21 February 13th should a deal not come together. And in that
22 regard, we reached out to Mr. Pantaleo, who represents the
23 banks, and we had negotiated cash collateral order at that
24 time. And after several very late nights and having to listen
25 to Mr. Cieri and Mr. Millstein go on and on at board meetings,

1 we reached an agreement in principle with Mr. Kornberg's
2 clients as well as with Mr. Goffman's client, Mr. Allen, on the
3 structure for a plan. And we executed plan support agreements
4 that detail the various commitments associated with that. And
5 with that agreement in place, we determined to make the coupon
6 payment on the bonds and to proceed to take the transaction
7 from an agreement in principle term sheet stage to a fully
8 documented transaction. And it also became clear after we made
9 the coupon payment that Mr. Pantaleo's clients would be
10 opposing reinstatement of the debt. So Mr. Powell and Mr.
11 Donovan, our litigators, reached out to the Simpson litigators
12 pre-filing to start to try to work through scheduling and
13 discovery issues. And as of yesterday, we have delivered to
14 Simpson Thacher's litigators 2200 documents and 40,000 pages of
15 documents in connection with what's probably going to be an
16 upcoming litigation on reinstatement.

17 So after more than a month and a half work, we filed
18 on the petition date a plan, the disclosure statement, a motion
19 to approve the disclosure statement, which we're going to seek
20 to have heard in hopefully about thirty days, if it's
21 acceptable to the Court, all of the corporate documents
22 necessary to emerge, including the bylaws, certificates of
23 incorporation, warrant agreements, registration rights
24 agreement, a certificate of designation for preferred stock,
25 equity financing documents evidencing equity commitments of up

1 to two billion and at least 1.6 billion dollars of new equity,
2 new debt documents evidencing refinancing of up to a billion
3 and a half of debt at CCH II. We also reached agreement on
4 post-effective date compensation for senior management. It was
5 like the corporate lawyers had found the oasis in the desert.
6 They were very happy to have a deal to work on.

7 So with that in place, we now want to seek to
8 implement the plan. And you can't really understand the plan
9 without understanding the capital structure. And the capital
10 structure can give you a bit of a headache. So with that, I'm
11 going to use two visuals to help walk through this. Can Your
12 Honor see those?

13 THE COURT: I can see them but I can't read them.

14 MR. BASTA: Okay. Let me -- that would be a problem.
15 Can I hand up?

16 THE COURT: Oh, please. Thank you.

17 MR. BASTA: I'm still going to refer to the pictures
18 because I think the way the boxes work together is going to
19 turn out to be significant. So what you see, Your Honor, is
20 that through a series of exchange offers, Charter has various
21 levels of debt at various legal entities coming up from the
22 assets. And all of these names -- we have acronyms for all of
23 these names that we're very comfortable with and I'm going to
24 try to introduce them to the Court so the Court can get
25 comfortable with them. This green box is Charter

1 Communications Operating LLC. And we refer to it as CCO. And
2 CCO is essentially the operating company. It owns the assets.
3 The debt at CCO is there's 6.9 billion dollars of first lien
4 term debt. And there's 1.3 billion dollars out on a revolver.
5 The revolver is just about to leave, Your Honor. And there's
6 about 2.4 billion dollars of second lien debt at CCO. So the
7 total debt at CCO is 10.7 billion dollars. Most of the trade
8 is at CCO. Now we're going to get into this later but it's
9 some trade that are up at the top two companies that get paid
10 to a management agreement but most of the debt is down here at
11 CCO. And we will be filing -- we have filed and seek at a
12 second day hearing with the support of the banks and the
13 bondholders and Mr. Allen a motion to pay all the trades in the
14 ordinary course of this. But that's not being heard today.

15 In a very traditional form of corporate finance, what
16 is interesting is that the average coupon on the CCO debt is
17 6.29 percent. And as you go further away from the asset at
18 each different level of debt, you see that the interest rate is
19 increasing straight up the chain. And that's to compensate
20 holders so that the farther you are away from the assets, it
21 reflects a basic bankruptcy risk that you're less likely to get
22 paid in full.

23 Our plan, you'll see, conforms to this basic
24 corporate finance doctrine. The entities that are closest to
25 the assets are going to get paid in full and the entities that

1 are farther away from the assets are going to get equity or
2 awards depending on valuation.

3 CCO is solvent. We don't believe there's any
4 question about that. And if you turn to our tree in slide
5 here, you can see that under our proposed plan, all of the
6 creditors of CCO are unimpaired to reinstatement.

7 If Your Honor has any questions, please interrupt.

8 The next entity up is CCO Holdings LLC. And that has
9 1.5 billion dollars of debt. Here, there's a 350 million
10 dollar facility secured by the stock in CCO, and there's 800
11 million dollars of senior notes. CCOH is also solvent. And
12 under our proposed plan, if you go to CCOH, that debt is
13 unimpaired.

14 So now, things start to get interesting. We get to
15 CCH II, which is 2.5 billion dollars. Now Mr. Kornberg's
16 clients own 1.3 billion dollars of this 2.5 billion dollars of
17 debt. And CCH II is interesting because it has some debtor
18 that is maturing in 2010 and it was important to us to come up
19 with a plan that dealt with that impending maturity. So what
20 the plan provides is that Mr. Kornberg's clients have committed
21 to taking new notes that mature in 2016 from CCH II and any of
22 the holders who are not in Mr. Kornberg's group have the option
23 of either taking those new notes or getting paid in cash in
24 full.

25 The next box is CCH I and there's four billion

1 dollars of debt at CCH I. And Mr. Kornberg's clients have 2.9
2 billion or seventy-three percent of the debt at CCH I. Now all
3 of the financial advisors have gotten together and we believe
4 our plan value for this enterprise is 15.4 billion dollars.
5 That makes CCH I the fulcrum entity that, as part of the plan,
6 is going to get the equity in the reorganized enterprise
7 subject to dilution for equity that's granted to other people
8 and including management shares.

9 We then get to CCH I Holdings, which is called CIH in
10 our terminology, and CIH has 2.5 billion dollars. And the
11 creditors there are going to get warrants. And you have CC --
12 Charter Communications Holdings, which is CCH, which has 440
13 million dollars of debtor and the creditors there are also
14 going to get warrants.

15 The next entity is called CCHC and there's only one
16 liability at CCHC and that's a seventy-five million dollar note
17 to Mr. Allen. And as part of the overall settlement under the
18 plan of Mr. Allen's claim, and we have many claims that are
19 being settled, but this claim is not getting a distribution at
20 this point.

21 You then have to take the next two boxes together and
22 we need to think about them together, Your Honor. We have
23 Charter Communications, Inc., which is the top company, the
24 public company. And you have Charter Communications Holding
25 Company LLC or Holdco, which is right below it. And CCI, which

1 is the top company, has 482 million dollars of convertible
2 notes out there. And CCO -- I mean -- excuse me, Your Honor.
3 Holdco here is obligated to 482 million dollars on mirror notes
4 to CCI. And so, to think about it simply, when we make a
5 distribution, we may be making distributions to Holdco but the
6 creditors that are getting the benefit of that distribution are
7 the convertible notes up at CCI. And based upon intercompany
8 claims that these entities have against the solvent, CCO, under
9 the plan, we're providing to give those creditors seventy-two
10 million dollars in preferred stock and some cash.

11 You then get to the equity ownership. Paul Allen
12 controls the voting control at CCI and is our largest
13 stockholder. And under a settlement agreement of Mr. Allen's
14 various claims and interests in the Charter enterprise, Mr.
15 Allen will end up with thirty-five percent voting control of
16 CCI and various other forms of consideration. This was an
17 important structuring aspect for the company and for Mr.
18 Kornberg's clients as part of our transaction because our
19 credit agreement at CCO has a requirement that Mr. Allen have
20 thirty-five percent voting control or as a change of control
21 and so the plan has been structured to ensure that Mr. Allen's
22 voting control continues.

23 This third slide, Your Honor, is a snapshot of what
24 we look like after we've given effect to the plan. And we
25 think the plan is a remarkable achievement given what's

1 happening in the market these days. We are eliminating 8.2
2 billion dollars of debt. All the debt CCH I up is eliminated.
3 Our annual interest expense savings is 830 million dollars. We
4 have equity commitments of at least 1.6 billion and up to two
5 billion dollars from Mr. Kornberg's clients to invest equity as
6 part of the plan. And Mr. Kornberg's clients have also
7 committed to take between 1.2 and 1.5 billion dollars of new
8 debt at CCH II. Given the status of the credit and equity
9 markets, we think these commitments reflect the strength of
10 this company and the remarkable nature of this deal.

11 Our plan provides to pay the trade in full and, of
12 course, the plan provides for the reinstatement of the CCO and
13 the CCOH debt at 6.29 percent and 7.28 percent interest rates
14 and that the 11.9 billion of debt to be reinstated.

15 Before I turn to reinstatement, let me just pause and
16 see if the Court has any questions regarding the plan.

17 THE COURT: I don't.

18 MR. BASTA: Okay.

19 THE COURT: At least not yet.

20 MR. BASTA: So where are we with JPMorgan and our
21 lenders? And it's a bad news/good news situation. The bad
22 news is we expect them to object to reinstatement. And while
23 this is certainly not the confirmation hearing, I think it
24 would be helpful to outline for the Court just our views on
25 reinstatement.

1 THE COURT: I'm interested in that. I read your
2 confirmation brief that was filed as a first day --

3 MR. BASTA: Well, never too soon to start, Your
4 Honor.

5 THE COURT: Never too soon to start confirmation or
6 litigation because I also read the papers filed by JPMorgan
7 Chase on Friday. So one thing that makes this case perhaps the
8 most unusual case I've seen -- I keep saying that about
9 virtually every case that gets assigned to me -- is that this
10 is previewing on day 1, a contested confirmation hearing on or
11 before day 130. So I'll hear what you have to say.

12 MR. BASTA: Thank you, Your Honor. We think the
13 facts, the law and the equities support reinstatement in this
14 instance. And let me outline the facts. We never missed a
15 payment on CCO or CCOH debt. We never violated any financial
16 covenants. We have not started this case with a forbearance
17 and a waiver agreement in place with Mr. Pantaleo's clients.
18 No waiver or forbearance was ever requested. No waiver or
19 forbearance was ever needed. As set forth in Mr. Doody's
20 declaration, we don't believe that there are any defaults that
21 preclude reinstatement of the debt and the only defaults that
22 exist are ipso facto defaults. We don't think there's anything
23 from a default perspective that blocks reinstatement.

24 We think the law clearly allows for reinstatement and
25 the Court referenced we did file our informational brief on

1 reinstatement. In sum, Section 1124 requires that the legal,
2 equitable and contractual rights of the lenders remain
3 unaltered. And as the legislative history makes clear in the
4 Senate report, and I'm quoting, "Because the intervention of
5 bankruptcy and the defaults represent a temporary crisis which
6 the plan of reorganization is intended to clear away, as long
7 as the holder of a claim is restored to his original position,
8 the claimant is in a better position than others who received
9 less or get nothing at all and has no cause to complain.

10 Here, the legal contractual and equitable rights of
11 the lenders will remain unaltered. We've taken steps to ensure
12 that there will not be a change of control. We are going to
13 comply with all of our covenants including financial covenants.
14 And therefore, we think reinstatement is appropriate.

15 We think the equities overwhelmingly favor
16 reinstatement. If I could go up to the visual. CCO and CCOH
17 creditors are the ones closest to the assets. They have the
18 lowest interest rate because they are closest to the assets and
19 have taken the least amount of risk. They deserve to get paid
20 in full. They don't deserve to get paid more than in full.
21 Their credit is being dramatically improved by this plan even
22 though their covenants don't require us to improve their
23 credit. We are reducing 8.2 billion dollars of debt and saving
24 interest of 830 million dollar a year. They bargained for Mr.
25 Allen having thirty-five percent voting control. Mr. Allen has

1 thirty-five percent voting control.

2 If reinstatement is not achieved, the junior
3 creditors and the capital structure are likely to be wiped out.
4 There are no functioning credit markets at the moment. And if
5 we have to reprice this debt at market, the numbers are
6 staggering. Because we're repricing 11.9 billion dollars of
7 debt, each hundred base point increase in pricing of this debt
8 increases our annual interest expense by 120 million dollars.
9 The company anticipates that repricing our debt to market at
10 this time could cost as much as 500 million dollars a year in
11 additional interest savings. So what would happen, Your Honor,
12 is that value that right now is going to our CCH II and CCH I
13 holders. If we fail to reinstate would be captured by parties
14 lower in the capital structure and it would not be able to go
15 to them. And we don't think it's consistent with our fiduciary
16 duty to maximize value to allow creditors and credit is being
17 improved and whose bargain is not being changed to capture that
18 value.

19 There's a lot of talk in Washington about getting
20 lenders to lend. We're not asking our lenders to lend. We're
21 just not asking them to reprice the debt when we're living up
22 to our bargain.

23 And we don't know for sure what the banks are going
24 to say about reinstatement but we can tell from their
25 activities prior to the case and in connection with the case.

1 On the petition date, the banks commenced an adversary
2 proceeding against the company. And they designated the
3 proceeding as noncore.

4 THE COURT: I noticed that.

5 MR. BASTA: And that -- the page -- paragraph 24 of
6 the complaint says the plaintiffs do not consent to the entry
7 of final orders or judgments by the bankruptcy judge. Let's
8 put the complaint into a little bit of context. Our CCO credit
9 agreement has two terms. The borrower is CCO and some but not
10 all of the holding companies are called designated holding
11 companies. And there are different requirements for the
12 borrowers than there are for the holding companies. That's the
13 structure of the loan agreement. If I can hand up a copy of
14 the credit agreement, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Please do. Thank you.

16 MR. BASTA: Your Honor --

17 THE COURT: This copy is marked in certain respects.
18 Did you intend for me to see a marked copy?

19 MR. BASTA: Yes. I did intend for that to be marked,
20 Your Honor. If you turn, Your Honor, to page 22 of the credit
21 agreement --

22 THE COURT: Page 22 of 114 at the top?

23 MR. BASTA: Yes. 22. At page 22, it says it's page
24 36 of 114.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Well, that's confusing.

1 MR. BASTA: Sorry about that. Should be tabbed, Your
2 Honor.

3 THE COURT: It is and it's also highlighted.

4 MR. BASTA: Highlighted, yes. There's a -- we didn't
5 want to make any mistakes about that. So there's a definition
6 of solvency. It's a pretty standard, I guess, definition. And
7 if you turn to the next tab, Your Honor, which is 4.21, there's
8 a representation but the representation is that CCO and its
9 subsidiaries have to be solvent. There's no representation
10 that any of the holding companies have to be solvent. None.

11 So the complaint then focuses on the next tab, which
12 is 8.3G, and I've highlighted it there as well, there's a
13 requirement that "The designated holding company, the borrower
14 or any of its subsidiaries shall generally not or shall be
15 unable to or shall remit in writing its inability to pay its
16 debts as they become due." And that's what the complaint
17 focuses on.

18 I'm going to hand up a copy of the complaint, if
19 that's okay, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: You may approach. Thank you.

21 MR. BASTA: I would like to focus the Court on
22 paragraphs 89 and 90 beginning with paragraph 90. Paragraph 90
23 says "At least two designated holding companies, specifically,
24 CIH and CCH were unable to pay their debts as they would become
25 due soon after October 1st, 2008." They say that they would be

1 unable to pay their debts as being would but complicated. The
2 only liabilities at CIH -- at CCH are its bond items. So the
3 only liabilities there are the payments of the bonds and the
4 payment of the bonds at maturity. And the banks don't allege
5 that CCH missed a bond payment they allege that CIH and CCH are
6 unable to pay those payments as they would in the future become
7 due. But if you turn to the previous paragraph, which is
8 paragraph 89, that actually quotes the credit agreement. And
9 the word "would" doesn't appear in the credit agreement. What
10 the credit agreement says is that the designated holding
11 companies "shall be unable to". It doesn't -- "as they become
12 due not as the liabilities would become due". And of course it
13 doesn't say "would become due" because CIH and CCH were never
14 sitting there with 2.5 billion and 440 million dollars,
15 respectively, to pay off their debt as they would become due.
16 There is no solvency test. And therefore, what the credit
17 agreement is asking us is whether those companies have, in
18 fact, made the interest payments and they have, in fact, made
19 those interest payments. It's not a hypothetical test. The
20 banks inserted in paragraph 90 the word "would" into the
21 complaint because they would like it to be in the credit
22 agreement but it is not.

23 So what's the point? The point is we could have a
24 noncore proceeding in the district court and spend millions of
25 dollars of litigation regarding whether or not CIH and CCH were

1 solvent in the fall of '08 but we respect that the credit
2 agreement does not impose a solvency requirement upon those
3 entities. The drafters knew when to use the word "solvent" and
4 the language of the credit agreement doesn't require that kind
5 of an endeavor. And that is our view. We think we'd be fine.
6 We think we would win a test of whether they had the ability to
7 pay their debts as they become due at that point in time. But
8 we don't want to get on a frolic in a detour.

9 There's a second example of the bank's behavior. On
10 March 16th, CCI filed a 10K and the auditors gave it a going
11 concern opinion. The banks quickly shot us a notice of default
12 saying it was a default under the credit agreement for there to
13 be a going concern qualifier. But if you read 6.1 of the
14 credit agreement, it's not a default because it's a default if
15 CCO gets its a going concern qualifier not if CCI gets a going
16 concern qualifier.

17 Taking these things together, we understand the banks
18 have to kick the tires and do their work and that's why we're
19 cooperating with them in terms of the discovery to try to get
20 this resolved quickly. To give Your Honor a sense of timing
21 and the impact of timing, we've agreed under our cash
22 collateral order to pay the bank's default interest during the
23 pendency of the case. That reflects the fact that CCO is
24 solvent. Each month of the case, the default interest number
25 alone is twenty million dollars plus. Twenty million dollars

1 plus a month. And that's just a default increment. And so, we
2 understand the need to have a fair timeline and a fair process
3 to get this resolved. But we don't want to engage in a process
4 that brings in facts and circumstances that are not necessarily
5 germane to the reinstatement inquiry.

6 And with that, Your Honor, let me turn to timing.
7 Our plan support agreement provides for proposed confirmation
8 like 130 days after the petition date. That was negotiating,
9 trying to come up with a fair amount of time to resolve the
10 issue. We're seeking to get a disclosure statement hearing in
11 about thirty days. Mr. Powell and Mr. Donovan have been
12 working with the Simpson litigators on a litigation schedule.
13 And I don't think there has been quite agreement yet. We filed
14 yesterday a motion for a proposed litigation schedule that we
15 would propose be heard Friday. We think it makes sense to have
16 a few days for everybody to digest the filing.

17 THE COURT: Let me just comment on that ministerial
18 question of my availability.

19 MR. BASTA: Okay.

20 THE COURT: I'm going to be in Washington, D.C. on
21 Friday and so, unless it's by phone, we can't do it on Friday.
22 I could do it on either Thursday morning or the following
23 Monday. And I'm indifferent as to which day it is.

24 MR. BASTA: I think Monday works great.

25 THE COURT: Fine. It'll be the following Monday at

1 ten.

2 MR. BASTA: Great.

3 THE COURT: That's a week from today.

4 MR. BASTA: Great. So I mentioned that the bank's
5 opposition to reinstatement was the bad news. What is the good
6 news? I think the good news is that has not stopped us from
7 reaching a consensual arrangement with the banks on cash
8 collateral. And we will continue to work with the banks and
9 try to find agreements where we can. Mr. Schrock's going to be
10 presenting the cash collateral order as part of his
11 presentation. But at this point, unless Your Honor has any
12 questions, I'm done with my presentation.

13 THE COURT: No, that's fine. Thank you. I'd like to
14 make something clear, however, 'cause I'm going to be hearing,
15 I'm sure, other preemptive arguments based upon legal positions
16 and facts that are not yet fully developed and that I'm only
17 really hearing about it for the first time.

18 One of the things that has become obvious to me from
19 my accelerated investment of time in these documents over the
20 weekend and on Friday is that it is apparent that a tremendous
21 amount of effort has gone into the development of a
22 comprehensive restructuring for these companies. It's
23 extremely complicated. The presentation that was just made
24 with the colored charts, I found to be helpful, particularly,
25 since I had done some reading in advance.

1 But when it comes to the preemptive identification of
2 confirmation type objections and discussing litigation which
3 has really only just been filed even though the parties have
4 informally been comparing notes on the litigation for some
5 number of weeks or months, I find myself in the difficult
6 position of hearing arguments that I'm really not yet ready to
7 hear. I'm perfectly prepared to have everybody who needs to
8 speak and to counter any of the arguments that have been made
9 by the debtor particularly as it relates to defaults and the
10 legal entitlement to reinstate debt which appears to be the
11 principal issue in this case at this moment.

12 But this is an issue that should be either resolved
13 by the parties themselves after everybody's had a chance to
14 assess the relative risk on a go forward basis. Or it will be
15 resolved after the record has been fully developed and I've had
16 a chance to understand the facts, not just looking at
17 highlighted sections but actually understand the facts and the
18 full context of the documents themselves. And for that reason,
19 why I am anxious to hear what everybody is prepared to tell me,
20 I want it to be very clearly understood that if I don't ask a
21 question, it doesn't mean that I don't have questions. If I
22 don't ask a question, it doesn't mean that I fully understand
23 everything that you've said or agree with everything you've
24 said. What it means is I am interested on day 1 to get what
25 amounts to a preview of coming attractions, which is what I

1 view this as. And I also recognize that this is a somewhat
2 public event in which parties are previewing for parties in
3 interest and for the business press, issues of significance in
4 this very significant case.

5 So you're free to put on your show. I was actually
6 pleased to see that a cable company had something as quaint as
7 charts as opposed to streaming video. And I'm confident that
8 if we get to confirmation, I'll see streaming video.

9 So with that, I'm anxious to hear what everybody has
10 to say. But I just wanted to make it clear that this is day 1
11 of a very, very complicated case. And I treat the remaining
12 legal issue, and there may be other issues as well, of
13 reinstatement as a serious question which is not to be decided
14 by the expression on my face on day 1. So no one should take
15 any comfort or feel any concern because of how I behave today.
16 I'm just learning. Who's next?

17 MR. KORNBERG: Good morning, Your Honor. Alan
18 Kornberg of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison on behalf
19 of the unofficial committee of CCH I and CCH II noteholders.
20 Those are the gray and dark blue boxes that was pointed out
21 earlier.

22 THE COURT: Was there any negotiation over the color
23 of the boxes?

24 MR. KORNBERG: Your Honor, I regret to inform the
25 Court that we were not consulted on colors but I think they'll

1 do for today's purposes.

2 A few words about our committee. We represent eleven
3 institutions that hold more than seventy percent of the CCH I
4 notes which was identified, again, as the fulcrum security in
5 this case and more than fifty percent of each tranche of the
6 CCCH II notes. In dollar amounts, that's more than 2.9 billion
7 of CCH I notes and 1.2 billion of CCH II notes.

8 Our unofficial committee was formed in December at
9 the request of the company which announced that it was to
10 engage in restructuring transactions. And as you can see from
11 the volume of paper that was filed, we have been very hard at
12 work. In addition to Paul Weiss, the unofficial committee is
13 advised by Houlihan Lokey and UBS. The pre-petition efforts by
14 the company, Mr. Allen's interest and the committee I think
15 have been extraordinary. As Mr. Basta mentioned, we've not
16 only agreed upon a plan and a disclosure statement, but
17 virtually all of the documents to implement what is a very
18 complicated restructuring.

19 So needless to say, I rise in support of the company
20 this morning. As Mr. Basta described it, this plan, which
21 truly is prearranged will substantially deleverage charter and
22 significantly facilitate the investment of almost 1.9 billion
23 dollars of absolutely fresh capital.

24 The committee members' support of Charter's
25 restructuring is evidenced by more than words. Specifically,

1 various members of the committee have made various different
2 commitments including agreeing to exchange their CCH I notes
3 for common equity, to exchange 1.23 billion dollars of CCH II
4 notes for new notes. If necessary, to purchase an additional
5 267 million dollars of CCH II notes and, very significantly, to
6 provide a backstop of at least 1.6 billion which could go to
7 two billion, backstopping a rights offering for the common
8 stock to be issued by the reorganized company.

9 Your Honor, I think everyone would agree that in
10 these capital under current conditions, that is an
11 extraordinary amount of money to raise. But the debtors, I
12 think, have achieved something else which is very important.
13 And that is, a goal which is specifically contemplated by the
14 Bankruptcy Code. They identify their problems. They reached
15 out to significant creditors. They fully negotiated a
16 comprehensive restructuring before filing in order to
17 facilitate the shortest possible stay in Chapter 11 and thereby
18 preserve maximum value for all interest parties.

19 I'm not going to argue confirmation today but I will
20 say that the plan that has been filed is in our view fair to
21 everyone, fully financed and feasible. Creditor distributions
22 have been fairly allocated and respect the relative positions
23 held in Charter's capital structure. Creditors that are
24 holding claims that will be reinstated, in our view again, are
25 getting the full benefit of their pre-petition bargain.

1 Moreover, their claims will be the obligations of a company
2 that will emerge from Chapter 11 with more than eight billion
3 dollars less debt.

4 As you've heard this morning and will hear for the
5 weeks to come, there are significant disputes as to whether
6 Charter is properly invoking its right under Section 1124 of
7 the Bankruptcy Code to reinstate its bank debt and other
8 obligations. While we believe very strongly that reinstatement
9 is entirely proper, we agree that today is not the day to
10 decide that issue. But we do have concerns. And our concerns
11 relate to timing. We have done everything possible to expedite
12 this case and these matters. Your Honor, as Mr. Basta
13 mentioned, discovery -- and I've never seen this happen before
14 even in a pre-arranged case, discovery began well in advance of
15 the Chapter 11 filing. In fact, Our committee members have
16 been fully cooperative with that process. Last week we
17 produced several thousand pages of documents to Mr. Pantaleo
18 and his colleagues. We expect that we will be producing more
19 documents this week.

20 So what we would ask the Court today is not to permit
21 those who oppose reinstatement to derail a fair and efficient
22 process toward confirmation. We, too, noted with some concern
23 the noncore jurisdiction allegation and the complaint that was
24 filed on Friday and wondered if that's not a signal that the
25 banks and others will take every opportunity available to delay

1 these proceedings.

2 We believe, Your Honor, that the parties can be given
3 a full and fair opportunity to be heard within the restraints
4 of the financing commitments executed by various members of the
5 unofficial committee. Specifically, those commitments provide
6 a termination right if, among other things, Charter does not
7 emerge from Chapter 11 within 150 days of the commencement of
8 these cases. And so, that would take us to the end of August.

9 Therefore, Your Honor, we hope that all parties will
10 cooperate in doing everything possible to keep these cases on
11 track and to keep alive the billions of dollars of financing
12 commitments that we have worked very hard to line up. Thank
13 you.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Goffman, good morning.

15 MR. GOFFMAN: Good morning, Your Honor. Jay Goffman
16 of Skadden Arps on behalf of Paul Allen. Your Honor, my firm
17 and the Miller Buckfire firm represent Paul Allen in his
18 capacity as the majority shareholder of this company. We're
19 here today to express our admiration for what the debtors
20 achieved here. It's truly an extraordinary event. To take a
21 company of this size, with this much debt, this complexity, and
22 be able to enter on day 1 with a fully pre-negotiated, fully
23 funded plan of reorganization.

24 I want to commend all the parties for the cooperative
25 spirit over the last several months. We've all worked hard.

1 We've all worked around the clock. But it's been with a spirit
2 collegiality in trying to achieve something very special here.
3 And I want to commend everybody for that.

4 We're particularly pleased with this plan of
5 reorganization. It provides billions of dollars of value to
6 the lenders. It makes sure the trade creditors are paid in
7 full. It takes care of all the customers. It takes care of
8 all the employees. That's very important to us.

9 Despite the complexity of the company, despite the
10 complexity of the capital structure, this really is a very
11 simple case, Your Honor. You've got a fully pre-negotiated
12 fully funded plan where all parties that are impaired have
13 participated in the process and agreed upon. All that's
14 required is for Your Honor to determine that the banks can be
15 reinstated. We're not going to make that argument today.
16 That's a confirmation issue. I'm sure my friend, Mr. Pantaleo,
17 will have very creative arguments to raise in objection to
18 that. But it's truly a one-issue case. And it's a
19 confirmation issue. Can the banks be reinstated? To me, there
20 can't be anything more core to Chapter 11 than whether or not
21 you can confirm a plan and reinstate bank debt. I appreciate
22 the creativity of the arguments to try to make it otherwise.
23 But I believe that's the sole issue here.

24 We would urge Your Honor to try to keep this on a
25 fast track towards confirmation. As Your Honor has heard,

1 there are financing commitments that do expire at certain
2 times. And just the incremental default interest is over
3 twenty million dollars every single month. We're here to
4 support the debtor. We're here to support the plan. And we
5 look forward to confirmation of this case.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 MR. PANTALEO: Hi. Good morning, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Good morning.

9 MR. PANTALEO: Peter Pantaleo, Simpson Thacher &
10 Bartlett for JPMorgan as agent for the first lien lenders. I
11 have in the courtroom with me today -- oops. That's not a good
12 way to start.

13 THE COURT: That's government property, Mr. Pantaleo.
14 I'm sorry about that.

15 MR. PANTALEO: It's okay.

16 THE COURT: It's a bad way to start, Mr. Pantaleo.

17 MR. PANTALEO: Good morning, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Good morning's always good.

19 MR. PANTALEO: Peter Pantaleo, Simpson Thacher &
20 Bartlett for JPMorgan as agent. I have with me in the
21 courtroom today my partners, Mr. George Wang and Mr. Bruce
22 Angiolillo.

23 Your Honor, I appreciate the opportunity to make a
24 short presentation with respect to our issues regarding this
25 plan. I fully understand Your Honor's observation and, you

1 know, we regard this as sort of an unusual situation for us. I
2 mean, typically, when you're the senior secured lender, you
3 don't start off a case being the last person everyone has
4 spoken to, but that's effectively the situation we're in now.
5 This is a pre-negotiated plan among certain parties but it was
6 not negotiated with us. In fact, decisively and determinately
7 so not negotiated with us. And as a result, from our
8 perspective, it raises several issues that we think they are
9 directly on confirmation. And they are directly, therefore, on
10 how we think this Court should evaluate this plan and its
11 prospects.

12 I'm going to just talk about three issues. There
13 actually are several more than just these three, Your Honor.
14 But I think, for purposes of today and giving the Court an
15 overview as to some of the more significant issues, I'm just
16 going to talk about these three basically. And what I'd like
17 to do, Your Honor, is start with the first issue, cross-
18 acceleration. And the starting point for this discussion is
19 the chart you have up on the screen. It's an inverted
20 corporate organization chart. It starts with the operating
21 company at the very top, Your Honor, CCO. And the banks are at
22 the top CCO level. CCO, as Your Honor heard through Mr.
23 Basta's presentation, is the operating company. And the
24 companies in red beneath it are various holding companies that
25 I'll refer to in our credit agreement as the designated holding

1 companies, or DHCs. We've got a guaranty claim against the
2 uppermost one, CCO Holdings LLC. It's economically irrelevant
3 to us because of the solvency of our primary borrower. We
4 have, however, no recourse direct against the other designated
5 holding companies.

6 And then you heard, I think, Mr. Kornberg mentioned
7 that his client is, in both places, CCH II and CCH I, they call
8 themselves the fulcrum security because they straddle the
9 enterprise value line that you see on the chart.

10 The key point, Your Honor, in this slide, and I think
11 from our perspective is that our borrower, CCO, is solvent.
12 It's solvent based on the plan valuation of 15.4 billion
13 dollars. It's even solvent based upon the liquidation analysis
14 in the company's plan. And I think the solvency helps explain
15 what this dispute between the lenders is about and what it's
16 not about. It's not about the business, which we think is a
17 perfectly good business. It's not about vendors or customers
18 or employees. And it's certainly not about any creditors of
19 CCO, all of whom get paid under all circumstances regardless of
20 the outcome of this dispute. Instead, Your Honor, this dispute
21 is over the allocation of value as between my client, the first
22 lien lenders and the shareholders of CCO and those creditors
23 who take through the shareholders, Mr. Kornberg's clients, and
24 others in the case.

25 The disagreement, Your Honor, is, in part, over the

1 enforceability of a provision in our loan document which puts
2 our borrower, CCO, in default if certain of the designated
3 holding companies' obligations are accelerated. Now this is a
4 unique provision in Charter's capital structure. You won't
5 find this upstream cross-acceleration in any other indenture or
6 in any other loan agreement. This provision was specifically
7 bargained for back when the agreements were being negotiated in
8 2004 and thereafter. And it was supposed to do precisely what
9 the plan today tries to avoid having happen which is to give
10 the lenders a seat at the table if the designated holding
11 companies got into financial difficult. Now, CCO conceded this
12 point to us in the context of negotiating the credit agreement.
13 It was, in fact, a specifically bargained-for provision. And
14 now, as a solvent entity, Your Honor, it's filed in bankruptcy
15 to effectively try to win back the point that it conceded in
16 negotiations to us. And it's doing this, Your Honor, not for
17 any creditors of CCO; it's doing this for its equity holders.

18 Now, Your Honor, cross-acceleration provisions are
19 not per se unenforceable as ipso facto clauses. Ipso facto
20 clauses arise because of the bankruptcy. And this is the
21 opposite of that. In fact, it's because of the default to
22 cross-acceleration that we have a bankruptcy here. They're
23 using the bankruptcy to try to invalidate our rights as a
24 result of cross-acceleration.

25 And the cases, Your Honor, we think, make clear that

1 when you have a bargained-for cross-acceleration provision,
2 it's fully enforceable unless there is some overriding federal
3 policy that says otherwise. So what's the federal policy?
4 Well, here, Your Honor, given CCO solvency, we think the
5 overriding federal policy favors enforceability. You have up,
6 on the screen, one of the -- several cases that come out of the
7 circuit courts that, I think, make the policy, as the First
8 Circuit said, perfectly clear. When the debtor is solvent, the
9 bankruptcy rule is that where there is a contractual provision
10 valid under state law, the bankruptcy court will enforce the
11 contractual provision. And that's what we have here. And it's
12 the rule in the Second Circuit under Westfield, and the Sixth
13 Circuit. In fact, it's fairly uniform -- it's a fairly uniform
14 principle of bankruptcy jurisprudence.

15 The principle, Your Honor, that a solvent debtor has
16 to live by its contract led Judge Posner, in the Milwaukee Road
17 (sic) case, to uphold the district court's decision not to
18 permit deacceleration of long-term bonds under the act. These
19 were five percent, hundred-year bonds. In doing so, Judge
20 Posner rejected the arguments that the debtors make here about
21 the fact that what we're looking for is a windfall and says,
22 "What the debtors describe as a windfall gain to the debenture
23 holders is simply the coming to pass of one of the
24 contingencies for which they or their predecessors bargained."

25 Now, I'm not saying, Your Honor, that a solvent

1 debtor, under the code, like CCO, can deaccelerate an otherwise
2 unimpaired debt. This was an act case, and there are some
3 differences between the statute at that time and the Code. But
4 what I am saying, Your Honor, is that otherwise valid contract
5 rights which do not contravene the words of the statute need to
6 be fully enforced against a solvent debtor even if, as was the
7 case here, doing so means the debtor cannot avail itself of
8 1124 of the Code.

9 And, moreover, Your Honor, giving effect to our
10 contract rights is actually consistent with the policies of
11 1124. The idea behind 1124 was to leave us no worse off than
12 if CCO had not filed bankruptcy. But absent CCO's filing, our
13 cross-acceleration rights would unquestionably put us in the
14 position of being able to reprice our debt either because we'd
15 be refinanced and we'd be able to reinvest at market rates or,
16 alternatively, there'd be a negotiation over a waiver and an
17 amendment and, in that context, an opportunity to reprice the
18 facility. But here, Your Honor, the point of the plan and this
19 bankruptcy is precisely to leave us worse off than if no
20 bankruptcy had commenced. And that's not an impairment, Your
21 Honor, whether you're solvent or not.

22 Further, Your Honor, there's nothing about this plan
23 that cures any of this. We have a new capital structure. We
24 have new owners, a revenue board, all without our participation
25 in the restructuring process. Exactly the opposite of what we

1 had bargained for in the context of this credit agreement.
2 Before the bankruptcy, Mr. Allen owned half the company and
3 controlled over ninety percent of the parent-level votes. And
4 now the bondholders are the owners. Paul Allen has a two
5 percent economic interest and a minority voting position at the
6 parent level. There is nothing about this that resembles our
7 pre-default circumstances. And it doesn't even matter if we're
8 relatively better or worse off. It's just different. Your
9 Honor, the point is they propose to make it different without
10 giving effect to our rights. That's the cross-acceleration.
11 That's the first issue.

12 We also have an issue with respect to the change of
13 control, which is a separate issue, and this is a default that
14 we think happens on the way out of bankruptcy, really, to
15 confirm this plan. And to the credit agreement, Your Honor, as
16 you see up on the screen, a change of default arises if that
17 Paul Allen Group ceases to have the power, directly or
18 indirectly, to vote, a director voting of equity interests
19 having at least thirty-five percent of the ordinary voting
20 power for the management of the borrower.

21 Now, today Mr. Allen controls the ultimate parent
22 board, fully controls it, has over ninety percent of the voting
23 power. So, by definition, he controls more than thirty-five
24 percent. He controls completely the management -- the voting
25 power for the management of the subsidiaries, including our

1 borrower, Charter Opera -- CCO. However, under the plan, if,
2 in fact, the plan is confirmed, Mr. Allen is reduced to four of
3 eleven directors. He's reduced to a thirty-five percent
4 minority voting interest at the parent. And this means, to us,
5 that as a minority parent company shareholder, he actually has
6 zero, zero, control over the management of our borrower, CCO.

7 Now, we think discovery will, in fact, make it clear
8 that leaving Mr. Allen with effectively zero control was the
9 intent of the parties when they negotiated this plan. But
10 whether it's intentional or not, Your Honor, it's just one more
11 breach that we think establishes why it is that they can't
12 simply say that we're unimpaired and confirm a plan that
13 provides for what this plan provides.

14 There's also a separate change of control default
15 that would be an issue here, and that's if any person or group
16 has more of the ordinary voting power for the management of CCO
17 than a Paul Allen Group. And here we think we have a default
18 too, Your Honor. And, again, we think this is going to be the
19 subject of further discovery. But the default relates to the
20 various group activities that we think are evident just by
21 reading the transaction documents today without taking any
22 discovery at all. The formation of the committee, the fact
23 that they signed the same agreements that depend on each other
24 for existence, the fact that requisite holdings can waive the
25 rights that are binding on individual members, common counsel,

1 et cetera, et cetera, we think is manifest indicia of group
2 activity in connection with the acquisition of reorganized
3 stock.

4 But away from the credit agreement, you know, the
5 important point here is that, as a result of these changes, our
6 risk is changing under the plan. And I would call Your Honor's
7 attention to the Barrington Oaks case. Barrington Oaks, as
8 Your Honor may recall, is a decision that was written years ago
9 by Judge Mabey. And in that case you had a debtor which sought
10 to render a lender unimpaired under a plan. The lender had a
11 lien on the property, and the debtor purported to have a
12 successor take title to the property, keep the lien in place
13 and perform. And the issue in that case is the enforceability
14 of a due-on-sale provision. If it was enforceable, then the
15 lender couldn't be unimpaired; you had to proceed under 1129.
16 If it wasn't, the debtor argued it wasn't, that 1124 would
17 govern. And what Judge Mabey said, after analyzing in his
18 typically exhaustive way the policies behind both 1124 and
19 1129, is that it didn't matter whether or not the due-on-sale
20 clause was enforceable. The point that did matter, which is
21 one of our points here, is that when you change owners, you
22 change risk, and that change entitles the lenders to 1129
23 protection.

24 And that's basically what we're debating here, Your
25 Honor. What we're debating here is very simple. The general

1 principle in the statute, the general principle in Chapter 11,
2 is the standard of fair and equitable under 1129. And as Judge
3 Mabey writes in his decision, that standard is in the statute
4 to enforce the essential commercial bargain that debt comes
5 ahead of equity. And what the parties would like to do here is
6 they'd like to get away from that standard. They'd like to get
7 away from the standard of debt coming ahead of equity and argue
8 instead for a theory of reinstatement in order to provide not a
9 recovery for unsecured creditors who won't otherwise get paid,
10 which is the policy behind reinstatement; the court's saying
11 that you shouldn't complain if you're getting a bargain in a
12 circumstance where others are not getting paid. That's not the
13 issue here. Here, reinstatement is being sought, in our view,
14 Your Honor, in order to provide a windfall for equity holders.
15 And they're doing it on the premise that Your Honor will
16 declare as unenforceable valid and enforceable provisions under
17 our credit agreement that was intended to give us the rights
18 to, among other things, in these circumstances, reprice the
19 debt. It's premised on the belief that, in fact, they can
20 effect all sorts of fundamental corporate changes, ownership
21 and control, without having to confront the consequences to the
22 lenders and the standards of fair and equitable under 1129.

23 Finally, Your Honor, just one last default, and this
24 is the complaint that parties referenced before. And by the
25 way, just to be clear in terms of process, Your Honor, and I

1 don't want to spend a lot of time talking about process before
2 bankruptcy, but I want to mention a few words. I got involved
3 in this case in January, and within weeks I tried to contact
4 each of the lawyers in the case, suggesting, you know, that
5 there should be a line of communication here, 'cause we saw
6 what was happening. After the K came out, after they had cut
7 their deal, we were excluded from those negotiations. We had
8 suggested in a letter that we be included in negotiations, then
9 we'd be prepared to negotiate something. Mr. Basta mentioned
10 how his litigators contacted us to provide for discovery. What
11 happened, at least as we recall it, Your Honor, is that no one
12 was contacting us. In fact, we had tried to talk about
13 discovery and we were unsuccessful. And so what we did was, at
14 the end of February, we gave them the complaint. We gave them
15 the complaint that we filed in this court last week. And we
16 did it for two purposes: one, to try to at least get some
17 discovery going, 'cause we were told that without a complaint
18 there wouldn't be a discovery, and we were proposing at that
19 point to file it in federal court; and second, in our minds we
20 were trying to get a conversation going about how to really
21 make this a pre-negotiated plan. That's been the process. And
22 to the extent there's been any discovery, it only started, Your
23 Honor, it only started after we gave them the complaint. And
24 it started because, in exchange for our agreeing not to file
25 it, they said they would give us documents. That's the scope

1 of how it is that we got to working hard and working together
2 with respect to at least starting this process so that we
3 wouldn't lengthen it unnecessarily here. And, Your Honor,
4 you'll hear more about this in the scheduling, but as of -- at
5 least as of Thursday, when they filed, a box and a half of
6 documents was all we got.

7 In any event, back to the complaint.

8 THE COURT: Friday. They filed Friday.

9 MR. PANTALEO: Friday. A box and a half of -- no,
10 they filed Friday?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Friday, yes.

12 MR. PANTALEO: Friday. A box and a -- even worse,
13 Friday. Even worse. Anyway, back to the complaint, Your
14 Honor, the complaint basically alleges, to keep it simple,
15 three things happened in the fourth quarter of 2008, Your
16 Honor. Two designated holding companies were shut off of
17 dividends and distributions because, we believe, the company
18 had realized that they were insolvent, that CCH I was insolvent
19 and they could no longer, in the exercise of their fiduciary
20 duties, and consistent with state law principles, continue to
21 fund dividends and distributions up to those holding companies.
22 Bondholders were then organized.

23 The third thing that happened is that CCO, in the
24 fourth quarter, borrowed about 750 million dollars from the
25 lenders. Now, we don't have a quarrel with the decisions that

1 were made with respect to the dividends and the distributions
2 and them organizing the bondholders. We had a big issue with
3 the fact that, while all this was going on, they were borrowing
4 money from us. And we think, Your Honor, again, and I think
5 the discovery will show, that the circumstances, at the time,
6 known to the company were such that the company should have
7 known that it could not make representations and warranties to
8 us sufficient to permit them to borrow up to 750 million
9 dollars. This is a matter of discovery. We were confident
10 based upon what we've seen so far that, in fact, this is a
11 valid claim.

12 Now, a word about core versus noncore. This is a
13 pre-petition default in the context of a credit agreement
14 that's to be reinstated. We think, Your Honor, Orion governs
15 here. Orion involved the assumption of a contract under 365,
16 not a reinstatement of a financial contract under 1124. But
17 the Second Circuit made it clear in Orion that, to the extent
18 that you are assuming a contract, even though part of
19 assumption is to make determinations about the cure of
20 defaults, if there is a dispute about a pre-petition default,
21 then it has to be adjudicated as a noncore proceeding in a
22 separate adversary proceeding. And that's exactly what we
23 think is the case here, Your Honor, and that's why we filed
24 this as a declaratory action, as a separate litigation.

25 Your Honor, so these are some of our issues.

1 There'll be others in this case. And we think discovery and
2 testimony would help flesh these issues out. The only thing, I
3 think -- you know, we want to be clear -- we'd like Your Honor
4 to understand clearly is that while the parties, sort of,
5 postured this as a pre-negotiated plan, you know, what it
6 really is, is that certain parties, certain parties, negotiated
7 among themselves to try to carve up a windfall at our expense
8 that, fortunately for us, Your Honor, we don't think the law
9 entitles them to have and, we think, the cases make it clear
10 they shouldn't expect to receive. And obviously, Your Honor,
11 we look forward to further opportunity to explore these issues
12 and certain other issues with the Court in connection with
13 this -- with these proceedings. Thank you.

14 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Pantaleo. Is there anyone
15 else who wishes to make a speech? Mr. Eckstein, good morning.

16 MR. ECKSTEIN: Your Honor, good morning. Kenneth
17 Eckstein of Kramer Levin. I'll rise to just briefly address
18 the Court. My firm represents thirty-three holders of first
19 lien bank debt with aggregate holdings approximating two
20 billion dollars. I wanted to rise today to advise the Court
21 that we endorse the comments made by Mr. Pantaleo. We believe
22 that, while the efforts that have been presented by the debtor
23 today are impressive and represent a great deal of effort, we
24 share the view that, unfortunately, those efforts were
25 undertaken without the inclusion of the lenders. And to that

1 extent, we do not believe it is fair to present this case as a
2 pre-negotiated case, that it, in fact, is a case that was
3 negotiated with some of the parties.

4 I believe Mr. Pantaleo has laid out clearly and
5 effectively several very important issues relating to cross-
6 acceleration and defaults that result from both pre-petition
7 activity, as well as the filing, as well as a very fundamental
8 change of control that has taken place. It is important to
9 underscore the fact, Your Honor, that we are going from a
10 situation where the current equity holder, who controls ninety-
11 one percent of the vote in this company, is being reduced down
12 to a two percent holding in a reorganized company. And the
13 fact that he is being retained with paper that suggests he can
14 vote thirty-five percent of the equity of this company does not
15 avoid the clear fact, in our view, Your Honor, that this case
16 is resulting in a fundamental change of control, which is an
17 event of default under the credit agreement.

18 I believe, Your Honor, these are issues that are
19 appropriate for discovery and for a disclosure statement
20 hearing and confirmation hearing. And I, therefore, will not
21 attempt to repeat, other than to say that we share the views
22 expressed by Mr. Pantaleo. We would hope, Your Honor, to be
23 able to participate in the process as it unfolds. We
24 understand that the timetable is quick, and we are prepared to
25 participate. I would, Your Honor, like to reserve my

1 opportunity to address a very brief limited objection we've
2 raised to cash collateral when that issue was presented by the
3 debtor.

4 But I did rise today, Your Honor, to indicate that my
5 group does share the positions articulated by the agent, and we
6 intend to participate in this process as it unfolds. Thank
7 you, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Thank you.

9 MR. UZZI: Good morning, Your Honor. Gerard Uzzi
10 from White & Case. My firm has been retained by holders of
11 Charter Communication Inc. convertible senior notes. The group
12 holds approximately sixty percent of the outstanding issue.
13 And if you'll recall, Your Honor, I couldn't see it from the
14 back of the courtroom, but from the old Char -- just so Your
15 Honor knows, Charter Communications Inc. is the top holding
16 company of Charter Communications, of the enterprise.

17 Your Honor, I wasn't intending on rising today. And
18 I rise, and I will be brief, solely because of the statements
19 made that essentially this is a one-issue case. I do
20 understand and appreciate that reinstatement is the big issue
21 out there, but I do think that there are more issues that will
22 need to be addressed before this case comes to a conclusion.

23 As debtors' counsel alluded to in his presentation,
24 my clients actually received distributions through recoveries,
25 directly or indirectly, on intercompany claims. Those

1 intercompany claims, Your Honor, from at least what we can
2 glean from the public record, have been substantially
3 compromised prior to the filing and will also be compromised in
4 the filing and then be paid off with preferred stock of dubious
5 terms.

6 Your Honor, we've heard a lot of, also, statements
7 regarding the designated holding companies and the need to keep
8 the capital structure in place for the reinstatement, the
9 issues regarding change of control. But we also believe that
10 there's another issue out there: that this capital structure
11 is being kept in place for the benefit of the controlling
12 shareholder to the detriment of my particular clients, that is,
13 there's tax reasons that keep this capital structure and the
14 corporate structure in place for the benefit of the existing
15 shareholders.

16 Your Honor, we're just getting started today, and I
17 just -- in the spirit of your request of a review of the events
18 to come is why I rise. We need to do our homework; we will.
19 We're not looking to slow down this process, provided we do get
20 a fair opportunity to have our issues heard.

21 Toward that end, we did reach out to -- I did reach
22 out to debtors' counsel last week; they did reach out to me.
23 And we did trade voicemails. I'm hoping that we can engage in
24 a dialogue with them that will resolve our concerns and resolve
25 them prior to confirmation. But in the event we can't, Your

1 Honor, then there may be more issues than reinstatement at
2 confirmation.

3 THE COURT: Fine. Thank you, Mr. Uzzi. And --

4 MR. UZZI: Thank you.

5 THE COURT: -- just to state what I think is an
6 obvious point, with the beginning of a case that the parties
7 who have brought it to court believe is a one-issue case and
8 they've teed it up as a one-issue case, it's up to the parties-
9 in-interest who were not involved in the negotiations to
10 identify any issues that parties may not have foreseen or
11 identified or may not have thought to be real issues for
12 confirmation.

13 So we're at the start of something that's obviously
14 been very well thought about in advance and is being managed
15 not only for my consumption but for public consumption. I
16 accept this as, to some extent, a PR event right now. This is,
17 however, first-days in a very important case, and we have yet
18 to hear the first motion. What happens next, Mr. Basta?

19 MR. BASTA: Your Honor, I think it's going to be
20 about forty-five minutes to an hour to get through the first-
21 day stuff. Maybe -- that might be a conservative estimate. I
22 don't know if Your Honor wants to plow through or whether we
23 should take a short break. Whatever is acceptable to the
24 Court.

25 THE COURT: Well, we've been here for almost an hour

1 and a half, and some longer because of the need to get seats.
2 I think it probably is a good idea to take a fifteen-minute
3 break. And if your aggressive estimate -- everything is being
4 aggressively estimated in this case -- of forty-five minutes
5 turns out to be right, then we'll be able to break at
6 lunchtime, about 12:30. So let's take a break until twenty
7 minutes to the hour.

8 MR. BASTA: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: We're adjourned.

10 (Recess from 11:25 a.m. until 11:41 a.m.)

11 THE COURT: Be seated, please. Good morning.

12 MR. SCHROCK: Good morning, Your Honor. Ray Schrock
13 of Kirkland & Ellis, on behalf of the debtors. Your Honor, as
14 far as going through the first-day motions, we'd propose to
15 just go in the order presented in the amended agenda we filed
16 yesterday.

17 THE COURT: That's fine.

18 MR. SCHROCK: Okay. Thanks. Your Honor, first, a
19 couple of perfunctory matters just as to service of all of the
20 motions. We have filed affidavits of service with the Court,
21 noting that we filed the notice of the hearing and the motion
22 with the core bankruptcy and a 2002 list by overnight mail and
23 e-mail. We also served the amended agenda yesterday as well as
24 the perfunctory motion yesterday, the consolidated creditors'
25 matrix. We did file that yesterday as well, along with

1 service.

2 Your Honor, we did file a declaration of Greg Doody
3 in support of all of the first-day motions. Rather than submit
4 an offer of proof in support of all the first-day motions, I'd
5 like to move to submit that declaration into evidence.

6 THE COURT: I've read that declaration. I assume
7 that other parties interested in the case have read it as well.
8 Is there any objection to my accepting that declaration in
9 support of the first-day relief?

10 MR. PANTALEO: No objection, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: It's accepted.
12 (Debtors' exhibit, Declaration of Greg Doody, was hereby
13 received into evidence as of this date.)

14 MR. SCHROCK: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, the
15 first motion is the debtors' motion for a joint administration
16 of the cases for procedural purposes. This is a very routine
17 motion. We do have 130 debtors here. The motions in the cases
18 largely affect all of the debtors. We have a joint plan. And
19 the joint admin, again, is only for procedural procedures. We
20 ask that it be approved.

21 THE COURT: Joint administration is ordered.

22 MR. SCHROCK: Okay. Thank you. Your Honor, the next
23 matter on the agenda is the debtors' motion for a case
24 management order. Again, very typical and very necessary for a
25 case of this size and complexity. Provides for a very typical

1 notice procedure. Note -- something we could note here, Judge,
2 if Your Honor is willing to entertain it, is that we do request
3 that the Court set the first four omnibus hearings. And we
4 need to set a second-day hearing as well as -- at this time.
5 If we could get a disclosure statement hearing, it may be
6 appropriate to deal with that here.

7 THE COURT: Well, since we're talking about
8 scheduling, let me tell you what my calendar looks like over
9 the next few months. I understood, as a result of a telephone
10 call placed to my chambers today, that there was a desire for
11 omnibus hearing dates to be set during the third week of each
12 month.

13 MR. SCHROCK: That's correct, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Partly because of my travel schedule, I
15 can provide an omnibus hearing date on Wednesday, April 15 at
16 9:45 a.m. with the understanding that I need to leave by
17 lunchtime to get to the airport.

18 MR. SCHROCK: Very well.

19 THE COURT: If that doesn't work because of
20 anticipated burdens of time, we're going to have to figure out
21 another day that works after I get back.

22 MR. SCHROCK: Okay. Very well. Your Honor, may I
23 have just a moment to confer?

24 THE COURT: Sure.

25 MR. SCHROCK: Okay. Judge, Wednesday, April 15th at

1 9:45 would work just fine.

2 THE COURT: At 9:45. And I'm just starting fifteen
3 minutes early so that I don't have the pressure as I'm looking
4 at the clock that I have to get out of here.

5 MR. SCHROCK: Certainly.

6 THE COURT: I assume that that'll work.

7 MR. SCHROCK: Yes, that would work just fine, Your
8 Honor.

9 THE COURT: Wednesday, May 20th at 10.

10 MR. SCHROCK: Okay.

11 THE COURT: And Wednesday, June 17 at 10.

12 MR. SCHROCK: June 17th. And, Your Honor, for all of
13 the motions, I assume we can hand those up at the end of the --
14 can we hand up all of the orders at the end --

15 THE COURT: Oh, yes. At the end.

16 MR. SCHROCK: -- of the hearing? Okay.

17 THE COURT: Those are, at least, some initial omnibus
18 hearing dates. If you need a date in July -- I noticed that in
19 the proposed scheduling motion relating to the litigation that
20 the date July 23 appears. I have no idea if that's simply
21 picked out of the air or if it reflects some discussion with
22 counsel for JPMorgan Chase, because that motion indicated that
23 meet-and-confer efforts have proven to be unsuccessful. I'm
24 assuming that there's no agreement on dates.

25 MR. SCHROCK: That's correct, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: And as a result, that date is simply a
2 date that I remember, that I'll probably be told to forget at
3 some point. So --

4 MR. SCHROCK: We hope not.

5 THE COURT: Well, it's out there. I don't know if
6 that's going to be a date that's just for the trial. I don't
7 know if we're talking about a one-day trial or if we're talking
8 about a ten-day trial. That's something that I'm going to want
9 to talk with you all about on Monday. But remember that we
10 have a hearing set for next Monday at 10 AM.

11 MR. SCHROCK: Yes, Your Honor. And just, very
12 briefly, just to give you an overview, the genesis of that date
13 was looking at the dates in the lockup, namely that we would
14 have to have a confirmation order entered by 130 days from the
15 petition date. We wanted to give ourselves some time for a
16 contested confirmation hearing. So that's -- the third week in
17 July is roughly where that came in. But we can discuss it on
18 Monday.

19 THE COURT: All right, well, this actually gets to a
20 procedural question that was occurring to me during the
21 presentations that we had before the break, and that is what
22 the trial is. And we'll talk more about this on Monday. I'm
23 not certain, based upon what I've seen so far, whether or not
24 that is, in effect, trial of the adversary proceeding issues
25 after fully presenting whatever motion practice or responsive

1 pleadings may be appropriate in connection with that, or if
2 that's intended to be a trial within the main case of
3 confirmation issues that have been, in effect, teased out of
4 the adversary proceeding for purposes of separate litigation.
5 It's also unclear to me whether or not that's the confirmation
6 hearing and we're simply having an evidentiary battle over the
7 reinstatement issues that have already been discussed. We'll
8 talk more about that on Monday.

9 MR. SCHROCK: Sounds good. Your Honor, could we also
10 get a date at this time for the disclosure statement hearing
11 motion that we have filed with the Court?

12 THE COURT: What date do you want?

13 MR. SCHROCK: Your Honor, the last week in April,
14 about thirty days out, works well for us.

15 THE COURT: You're going to realize quickly that
16 I'm --

17 MR. SCHROCK: I know you have a couple things going.

18 THE COURT: -- completely dependent upon my courtroom
19 deputy for scheduling. And --

20 MR. SCHROCK: We can contact chambers.

21 THE COURT: -- I'm going to have to -- I have days
22 that week. It's just not clear to me whether or not --

23 MR. SCHROCK: Okay.

24 THE COURT: -- for something that I am anticipating
25 may result in some debate --

1 MR. SCHROCK: All right.

2 THE COURT: -- whether or not I have sufficient time
3 to allocate on particular days here. So, yes, you will have
4 time that week. Let me just confer with my courtroom deputy,
5 at a break, which day it's going to be. And we'll let you
6 know, obviously.

7 MR. SCHROCK: Very good. Thanks, sir. Your Honor,
8 if there are no issues with the case management order, then we
9 ask that it be approved.

10 THE COURT: Were there any issues with the case
11 management order? I'm asking that of the room.

12 MR. PANTALEO: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: I'll approve it.

14 MR. SCHROCK: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, the
15 next matter before the Court is the debtors' application to
16 retain KCC as claims and noticing agent. I would like to note
17 for Your Honor that we did follow the Southern District of New
18 York protocol when retaining a claims agent. We did get bids
19 from three parties; consulted. And after consulting with
20 management and the parties, we found that KCC's pricing and
21 capabilities were superior.

22 THE COURT: I'm sure they're pleased to hear that on
23 the public record, and that application is approved.

24 MR. SCHROCK: Thank you. Your Honor, the next motion
25 before the Court is the motion to file a consolidated creditor

1 list and legal formal mailing matrix for each debtor. Again,
2 we do have 130 debtors. We do have a consolidated creditor
3 matrix already prepared. And on a related note, Your Honor may
4 have noticed we didn't file a motion to extend the date for
5 filing schedules and statements. We do expect to file those in
6 the first fifteen days of the case.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. SCHROCK: If there are no objections, we asked
9 that it be approved.

10 THE COURT: That's approved.

11 MR. SCHROCK: Okay. Your Honor, the next motion
12 before the Court is the debtors' motion to use cash collateral.
13 Your Honor, even though we do have a dispute on reinstatement,
14 the debtors, the agent for the pre-petition lenders and the
15 steering committee for the first lien lenders come before the
16 Court with a consensual cash collateral order. We think that
17 speaks well for all involved and the professionalism of the
18 parties involved. And that's the way we're going to try and
19 run the rest of this case is to only bring matters before Your
20 Honor when we can't -- absolutely cannot work it out.

21 I'd like to just give you a very brief overview of
22 some of the key terms of the cash collateral motion and briefly
23 address the statement of Wilmington Trust and the limited
24 objection that was filed by the subgroup of lenders. And then,
25 I suppose, they may want to get up and say a few words as well.

1 Your Honor, the intercreditor agreements that are with the
2 first lien lenders and the second lien lenders and the third
3 lien lenders are key documents, and we did recite the specific
4 provisions in the motion. We do have second lien holders that
5 do have an interest in cash collateral, namely under Section
6 5.2 of the intercreditor. Once the first lien lenders agree to
7 use cash collateral, the second lien creditors, they are deemed
8 to have consented. And you'll notice that the Wilmington Trust
9 application is simply a reservation of rights. It cannot
10 dispute and is deemed to have to consent to cash collateral.

11 The cash collateral order is very typical. Cash can
12 be used for working capital and general corporate purposes.
13 There's an adequate protection package that notably is only
14 against what we refer to as the operating debtors; that's CCO,
15 the operating debtor, and its subsidiaries. They're granted a
16 507(b) claim for diminution in value, adequate protection
17 liens. A pretty standard package. Also requires that we
18 maintain the cash management system in place and comply with
19 the covenants set forth in Section 7.1 of the credit agreement.
20 There's an EBITDA covenant that we have referenced in paragraph
21 9 of the order, and it does require that we make periodic
22 interest payments at the default rate. We agreed to that
23 default rate, Your Honor, because we are seeking reinstatement,
24 and, frankly, we would like to avoid the capitalized interest.

25 Just a key number, Your Honor, that I think it is

1 relevant because it's a cost to the estate. But of all the
2 reinstated debt that the debtors are seeking to reinstate, that
3 interest runs about twenty million dollars a month just for the
4 default rate component, and that's before you consider
5 capitalizing interest on the unsecured issuances where we won't
6 be making interest payments during the case. So it is -- time
7 is of the essence for Your Honor.

8 We are seeking, as adequate protection, the ability
9 to make quarterly interest payments. The next payment -- or,
10 sorry, make interest payments and make quarterly amortization
11 payments. The next one is due on March 31st; it's 17.5
12 million. And I believe it's about seventy million dollars a
13 year. But that is part of the adequate protection package.

14 There is a carve-out, which we think is fairly
15 typical. It's pipeline before default, plus twenty million.
16 And we are allowed to pay adequate protection to other parties
17 upon entry of a final order. And that's been a bit of a
18 sticking point with some of the other junior lien holders. But
19 this is the deal we have with the first lien holders. Upon
20 entry of a final order, we are seeking a 506(c) waiver and a
21 lien on proceeds of avoidance actions of the CCO debtors.

22 Your Honor, very briefly, regarding the Wilmington
23 Trust statement, as I said earlier, they are not objecting to
24 cash collateral use. That is very much governed by 5.2 of the
25 intercreditor. And here we have a consensual order with the

1 first lien lenders. We struck a deal with them. There's many
2 things to fight about in this case, but we thought that entry
3 of a final order in getting them their adequate protection
4 package was simply the better way to go after consultation with
5 the first lien lender. So in that regard, we did file a motion
6 for adequate protection for the second liens and for the third
7 liens, but CCOH. And we're seeking to have those orders
8 entered upon entry of a final order.

9 I received some comments to the order from
10 Wilmington's counsel on the second lien adequate protection.
11 We're just making clear that the adequate protection would be
12 retroactive to the petition date. We thought that was the
13 deal, and we find those changes to be acceptable. But at this
14 time, Your Honor, we don't think there's any risk, real risk,
15 to the second lien parties, the third lien parties. We do have
16 over 700 million dollars in cash, and we do have orders on file
17 to be heard in the next 20 days.

18 Your Honor, there was also a limited objection filed
19 by the second lien -- what I'll refer to as the subgroup of
20 lenders.

21 MR. PANTALEO: First lien.

22 MR. SCHROCK: Sorry, first lien lenders. Thank you,
23 Mr. Pantaleo.

24 THE COURT: This is Mr. Eckstein's objection.

25 MR. SCHROCK: That's right. That objection focuses

1 on a provision in the credit agreement, Section 10.5(b) -- if
2 you still have that copy up there with you, Your Honor -- that
3 allows for the lenders to have one additional counsel. We've
4 had a lot of conversations with Mr. Pantaleo and Mr. Eckstein
5 about this. And Mr. Eckstein does represent roughly twenty
6 percent of the lenders, but certainly he doesn't represent all
7 of the lenders at this point. And Mr. Pantaleo and Mr.
8 Eckstein have not been able to work out a deal on that point
9 for his representation of that group at this time.

10 We do -- I think the only noteworthy thing from the
11 debtors' perspective here is that it is not an objection to
12 cash collateral. I do think that, because the second lien
13 lenders are alleging that it's a default not to pay it, that it
14 is something that the debtors care about. We don't want to
15 have this be alleged as some kind of bar to reinstatement at a
16 future point. So we can't have it both ways. We can't have
17 the agent say don't pay him and then the second -- and then the
18 other group says pay us or it's a default.

19 So what I would suggest, Your Honor, is it's really
20 not an issue for today. I think it's something that maybe Mr.
21 Pantaleo or Mr. Eckstein could continue to work on it. But, if
22 at all to be heard before the Court, we think it's appropriate
23 for the final hearing on cash collateral.

24 THE COURT: Okay. I understand that to be the
25 debtors' position. You've identified the statement of

1 Wilmington Trust and the objection filed by Kramer Levin as a
2 limited objection. I just want to hear what, if anything,
3 Wilmington Trust and the first lien lender group wishes to say
4 on the subject of cash collateral.

5 MR. SCHROCK: All right. Thank you.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Susan Johnston, Your Honor, from
7 Covington & Burling LLP, on behalf of Wilmington Trust. It is
8 correct that Wilmington Trust does not object to the debtors'
9 use of cash collateral. Wilmington Trust also does not object
10 to the adequate protection being provided to the first lien
11 holders. We are comforted by the debtors' agreement to
12 explicitly make the provision of adequate provision to the
13 second lien secured parties retroactive to the petition date.
14 And Mr. Pantaleo has indicated to me that he also agrees with
15 that. And that gives us some comfort that our constituents
16 will not be damaged by any act that may occur during the
17 interim period when we are not receiving adequate protection.

18 We do believe that it is a violation of the
19 intercreditor agreement for the first lien secured parties to
20 receive the adequate protection that they're receiving when we
21 don't receive it. But we're not damaged as of today, and we'd
22 just reserve our rights on that point until such time as we
23 actually need to address it.

24 THE COURT: So you're reserving your rights under the
25 intercreditor agreement as between the first and the second?

1 MS. JOHNSTON: That is correct, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MR. SAVAL: Your Honor, Daniel Saval from Brown
4 Rudnick. We represent Wells Fargo, the agent under the third
5 lien credit facility at the CCO Holdings, L level. I'd also
6 just like to reserve the rights on behalf of Wells Fargo under
7 the intercreditor agreement. We share the view of Wilmington
8 Trust that we do not believe it is all clear that the third
9 lien parties would have to wait till entry of the final order
10 to receive adequate protection. That being said, we do not
11 object to use of cash collateral; we do not object to the
12 adequate protection package being provided to the first lien
13 lenders. And we are working with debtors' counsel, which has
14 mentioned that a separate motion for providing adequate
15 protection to third lien parties has been filed and will be
16 heard. Thank you.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. ECKSTEIN: Your Honor, Kenneth Eckstein on behalf
19 of a group of first lien lenders. Your Honor, we chose to file
20 this today even though, in many cases, this would be an issue
21 that I would agree with Mr. -- with Kirkland might be something
22 you could consider down the road. But we chose to file it
23 today because of the unique pace that this case was following.
24 I think we already heard the company, and the noteholders have
25 already begun to provide discovery. And there's a disclosure

1 statement hearing that is being requested for the end of April.

2 Your Honor, my group of first lien lenders represent
3 approximately twenty-five percent of the first liens, and we
4 believe that there's a very important role that we would expect
5 to play in this case. Whether this case is going to be
6 litigated to conclusion or, alternatively, if there is going to
7 now be an opportunity for there to be a negotiated resolution,
8 either way, it is our expectation that we can play a very
9 useful and constructive role in this case.

10 We believe that the credit agreement in this case,
11 which is somewhat unusual because it expressly contemplates
12 that, in addition to counsel for the agent, there will be one
13 other firm of counsel to the lenders. So we believe the credit
14 agreement in this case is clear in contemplating what our group
15 has proposed. And our group organized in reliance upon the
16 fact that there was contemplation of precisely this arrangement
17 in the credit agreement. Now, in fact, we've had discussions
18 with Mr. Basta and with Mr. Pantaleo about a structure for this
19 to work efficiently in the context of this case. And, in fact,
20 in my limited objection, I laid out what I thought was the
21 scope of services as well as a proposed cap for purposes of
22 monthly reimbursement that we were willing to offer to the
23 company in order to accomplish this today. In fact, the credit
24 agreement provides for no limitation on scope and no limitation
25 on monthly reimbursement.

1 THE COURT: Is there an agreement as to that cap?

2 MR. ECKSTEIN: Your Honor, I believe, and I don't
3 want to commit the company, but I believe this was the number
4 that the company had proposed to us, and we are willing to
5 accept it. We also believe that the scope is consistent with
6 what the company had proposed to ensure that there would be an
7 efficient interaction between ourselves and agent's counsel.

8 Your Honor, we believe that this has been discussed
9 extensively. And while I'm always amenable to trying to
10 resolve things, I don't believe that there are really any open
11 issues. And in our view, we believe it's constructive to get
12 this issue behind us so that we can all focus on the substance.
13 So we thought it was appropriate to bring it to Your Honor's
14 attention this morning.

15 THE COURT: I -- I'm not saying it's inappropriate.
16 It's not directly related to the use of cash collateral, unless
17 you're objecting. But you're front and center, and I presume
18 you'll be able to talk with counsel and either agree to the
19 treatment of your fees or you won't. Is there an agreement?
20 I'm looking at debtors' counsel.

21 MR. BASTA: Your Honor, our perspective on this is
22 that if the lenders want to designate counsel --

23 THE COURT: You're talking about all the lenders?

24 MR. BASTA: All the lenders, in accordance with the
25 credit agreement, and that fits and satisfies 10.5 so that the

1 debtors are fulfilling their obligation under 10.5 and it's
2 within a limited scope parameters, as Mr. Eckstein has
3 articulated, the debtors would find that acceptable. There was
4 one aspect of Mr. Eckstein's proposal where we wanted a hard
5 cap, and Mr. Eckstein has proposed, as I understand it, a soft
6 cap, meaning that if his fees go above the cap that he can come
7 back later in the case and seek amounts in excess of the cap.

8 THE COURT: I understand that it was a carry
9 forward/carry back cap.

10 MR. ECKSTEIN: Your Honor, it was a carry
11 forward/carry back cap, and we provided that, to the extent,
12 ultimately, the fees exceeded the carry forward/carry back, we
13 would have the right to request from the Court a reimbursement
14 of reasonable expenses consistent with the scope that was
15 articulated in our objection.

16 THE COURT: Would that be on the basis of your loan
17 agreement or on the basis of substantial contribution, or some
18 other basis?

19 MR. ECKSTEIN: We would submit to the discretion of
20 the Court based upon the arrangement that was provided for in
21 the objection, Your Honor. It was a reasonableness standard
22 that would be submitted to Your Honor.

23 MR. BASTA: And our perspective, Your Honor, was we
24 were fine with the carry forward or carry back, but what we --

25 THE COURT: You don't want to revisit this later.

1 MR. BASTA: And, you know, Simpson Thacher is a
2 qualified adversary. And we didn't -- our perspective in all
3 of this was not to have to -- we don't understand, necessarily,
4 the disparate interests that would be protected by additional
5 counsel. But our perspective is that if the lenders got
6 together and the credit agreement says what it says, we'd live
7 with it.

8 THE COURT: Well, I guess you live by the credit
9 agreement and you die by the credit agreement. So I'm not
10 interpreting provisions in the credit agreement that relate to
11 the reimbursement of counsel for the, quote, "lenders", close
12 quote, at this point. That's not before me. I understand the
13 legal argument that's being made, and I view that legal
14 argument as ancillary to the use of cash collateral. So I view
15 this as a platform for public negotiation, which is probably
16 the wrong thing to do in a packed courtroom. And I suggest
17 that the parties talk about this later. But I understand the
18 positions being articulated. Either you reach an agreement or
19 you don't.

20 MR. ECKSTEIN: Your Honor, we'll be happy to try to
21 resolve this. And if we need to come back to Your Honor, we
22 will, and reserve our rights, obviously, under the credit
23 agreement in full.

24 THE COURT: That's fine --

25 MR. ECKSTEIN: Okay. Thank you.

1 THE COURT: -- including, I suppose, the right to
2 litigate it someplace else besides the bankruptcy court.

3 MR. ECKSTEIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 MR. SCHROCK: Thanks, Your Honor. So with that, we'd
5 ask that the cash collateral order be approved.

6 THE COURT: I'm prepared to do that. I just want to
7 be sure that the Office of the United States Trustee, who's
8 been represented but quiet, is satisfied that the use of cash
9 collateral, as proposed, is satisfactory to that office.

10 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: Good morning, Your Honor. Paul
11 Schwartzberg from the U.S. trustee's office. We had had one
12 question prior to this hearing regarding whether the liens were
13 attaching to avoidance actions. We were advised that they were
14 not.

15 MR. SCHROCK: They are.

16 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: If that could be confirmed --

17 MR. SCHROCK: That's confirmed.

18 THE COURT: That's confirmed. I think I must have
19 misheard counsel earlier because I heard something about
20 avoidance actions. And it may be that the negative before the
21 lien on avoidance actions was left out, or I misheard it. So
22 I'm glad for the clarification.

23 MR. SCHROCK: Thanks, Your Honor. We are seeking,
24 upon entry of the final order, a 506(c) waiver and a lien on
25 proceeds of avoidance actions.

1 THE COURT: For the final order, you're seeking a
2 lien on avoidance actions?

3 MR. SCHROCK: Proceeds there.

4 THE COURT: Proceeds.

5 MR. SCHROCK: Yes.

6 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: Your Honor, today we're just
7 concerned with the interim order. As long as it doesn't --

8 THE COURT: Fine.

9 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: Today, we have no objection.

10 THE COURT: That's an extraordinary provision that
11 would not ordinarily be permitted absent good cause shown. So
12 we'll address that at the final hearing.

13 MR. SCHROCK: That's fine, Your Honor. Your Honor,
14 if there's nothing further on cash management, I'll move to the
15 next motion.

16 THE COURT: That's fine.

17 MR. SCHROCK: Okay.

18 THE COURT: Oh, let's be clear. Cash collateral is
19 approved.

20 MR. SCHROCK: Thank you, Your Honor. And then we'll
21 also -- can we set the final DIP hearing just for that, the
22 date on the 15th?

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 MR. SCHROCK: Or the final cash collateral motion,
25 Your Honor? Your Honor, the next motion is the debtors' motion

1 to enter into a surety bonding facility. Surety bonds are
2 critical to the debtors' business. They're issued to
3 municipalities for franchise obligations and for utilities. As
4 of the petition date, we had fifty-five million dollars in LCs,
5 outstanding security, sixty-five million dollars in bonds.
6 Surety: Travelers. Our surety asked for this order as a
7 condition to continue to issue those bonds. The material terms
8 of the order are that this is a 150 million dollar facility, 20
9 million of which would be accessible under the interim period.
10 The terms of the facility are fairly consistent with the prior
11 eighty to a hundred percent of cash collateral or LCs securing
12 this obligation.

13 There is a new indemnity agreement that incorporates
14 the old indemnity agreements. And we did clarify two things
15 that I wish to put on the record with the surety here today.
16 The first is that if there's any provision in an old indemnity
17 agreement previously issued relating to a default as a result
18 of the Chapter 11 filing, that will not be enforced. The
19 second point simply being that as the surety has agreed that
20 its claims are subordinated to the claims of the first lien
21 lenders and the other secured parties in this case, given that
22 those first lien lenders and other parties are also subject to
23 the carve-out, likewise the surety's claims will be subject to
24 the carve-out in these cases.

25 And I don't believe there are any objections, Your

1 Honor. That's right, yeah, except surety's counsel points out
2 they're not subject to the carve-out with respect to their cash
3 collateral that's out there, and that's fine.

4 MR. ALTER: Otherwise -- Your Honor, Jonathan Alter
5 on behalf of Travelers. I can confirm that. Thank you, Judge.

6 THE COURT: All right. Are there any objections to
7 the surety bond motion? Hearing none and recognizing this is a
8 necessary part of the business, I approve it.

9 MR. SCHROCK: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor. Your
10 Honor, the debtor -- the next motion is the debtors' motion to
11 approve their cash management system. It's a fairly detailed
12 system that we've set forth in the order. I'd just rely on the
13 description of the cash management system in the motion and in
14 the order. We did reach one accommodation with the U.S.
15 trustee's office that we did agree to use the DIP stamp legend
16 on existing cash -- check stock. And, with that, I don't
17 believe there are any objections.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Schwartzberg, is that acceptable to
19 you?

20 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: Your Honor, I think there's one
21 petition.

22 MR. SCHROCK: As well as on forms as well. We'll put
23 the stamp on checks as well as forms.

24 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: Yeah, that's acceptable, Your
25 Honor. Our concern was that people out there wouldn't -- who

1 aren't as aware of today's filing, would be unaware that they
2 were dealing with a debtor-in-possession, and we wanted it on
3 the forms as well as checks.

4 THE COURT: Hard to imagine that there's anybody who
5 isn't aware of Charter's current status. But, okay.

6 MR. SCHROCK: All right. Your Honor, the next motion
7 is what we affectionately refer to as our NOL motion. And I am
8 familiar with this Court's colloquy with some of my partners in
9 the Sirva case.

10 THE COURT: Oh, the Kieselstein colloquy.

11 MR. SCHROCK: Yes, that's -- that's right. And, Your
12 Honor, I did enjoy reading the transcript and how, at one
13 point, Mr. Kieselstein said he'd like to channel his tax
14 partner, Mr. Maynes, for the proceedings. And, instead, I
15 brought him with us here today in case --

16 THE COURT: Oh, welcome to --

17 MR. SCHROCK: -- we trip over --

18 THE COURT: -- welcome to my courtroom.

19 MR. MAYNES: Thank you.

20 THE COURT: Are you going to say something?

21 MR. MAYNES: Todd Maynes, Kirkland & Ellis, on behalf
22 of Charter. He warned me I might need to do that, so --

23 THE COURT: So far so good.

24 MR. SCHROCK: Your Honor, we're seeking an interim
25 order that I believe is consistent with other orders entered in

1 this district and by this court. This applies to stock trades,
2 not claims trading. The company has over eight billion dollars
3 in NOLs. Just to give Your Honor some of the figures here, six
4 billion of NOLs would translate into two billion dollars of tax
5 savings in the future years. This company, obviously, as
6 you've heard today, does make money; they will be used. The
7 company would lose its entire NOL if an ownership change were
8 to occur. The only shareholder we're aware of at this time
9 that's over five percent that's going to be affected is Mr.
10 Allen. Mr. Allen has not objected. These tax savings, and I
11 think this is unique to this case, are critical to the plan and
12 the valuation that we have filed before the Court, and that's
13 in order to preserve the ability to confirm that plan.

14 So, in summary, Judge, this case is a unique one and
15 the strongest case we have seen for the restrictions set forth.
16 And they are just restrictions and an opportunity for parties
17 to trade after notice.

18 THE COURT: Is there anyone who wishes to be heard on
19 this subject? I'm not prepared to enter the interim relief
20 requested. The reference to the Kieselstein colloquy from the
21 Sirva case was a reference to some concerns I had about a
22 similar order that was being requested in that case in February
23 of last year. And it was, to some extent, informed by my
24 sensitivity to the whole issue of trading orders and
25 limitations upon the transfer of stock and claims associated

1 with the opinion in the United Airlines case by Judge
2 Easterbrook which, if I'm remembering it correctly, raised some
3 very serious issues as to the appropriateness of NOL trading
4 orders, particularly as it involved stock, as first-day orders
5 in large bankruptcy cases; that case was United Airlines.

6 We had a reasonably well-informed debate on the
7 subject. There was a follow-up hearing, at which time
8 additional information was provided. And I entered the order
9 without objection. I think there's no need for your tax
10 partner to say anything further --

11 MR. SCHROCK: Thank you, Judge.

12 THE COURT: -- because he's likely to simply confuse
13 me. And for that reason, I -- not just for that reason.
14 I'm --

15 MR. SCHROCK: That's a good reason.

16 THE COURT: I'm prepared to enter this order, and I
17 recognize the importance of preserving NOLs to the proposed
18 plan. And I'm encouraged by the fact that Mr. Allen, who seems
19 to be particularly affected by this, is supporting restricting
20 his own interests in consideration for preserving NOLs for the
21 benefit of the reorganized company.

22 I noted that there was one other large holder noted
23 in the motion. Is that holder consenting? Does that holder
24 have notice?

25 MR. MAYNES: I contacted that holder on Friday, Your

1 Honor, confirmed they do not have twenty million shares. And
2 so, therefore, they would not be subject to it. They have
3 twenty million if you combine their different funds together.
4 But for tax purposes, you don't have to combine them.

5 THE COURT: Fine.

6 MR. HESSLER: So they're fine, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Great. I approve it.

8 MR. SCHROCK: Thank you, Your Honor. I think, at
9 this time, I'm going to cede the podium to my partner, Mr.
10 Hessler, for the remainder of the motions.

11 MR. HESSLER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Steve
12 Hessler of Kirkland & Ellis, on behalf of the debtors. The
13 five motions remaining to be heard today are set forth in
14 Section 2C of the agenda and all involve requests that the
15 debtors need to continue their operations without undue
16 disruption or delay. Your Honor, turning to item 2C(1) on the
17 agenda, which is the debtors' wages motion, the debtors' most
18 valuable asset is their approximately 16,500 highly skilled
19 employees. This motion seeks authority for the debtors to
20 honor their obligations to these individuals whose continued
21 hard work and dedication is critical to the debtors' successful
22 restructuring.

23 The debtors maintain, on behalf of their employees, a
24 wide array of customary wage and benefit programs.
25 Importantly, Your Honor, in the interim order before the Court

1 today, the debtors are not seeking any relief related to any
2 employee bonus programs, any severance programs, the debtors'
3 deferred compensation plan or any indemnification obligations
4 to directors and officers. The debtors will, however, be
5 seeking approval for these items in a proposed final order at
6 their second-day hearing. The debtors are seeking approval on
7 an interim basis, Your Honor, for the following: first, the
8 authority to pay pre-petition wages, salaries and other cash
9 compensation and to continue to satisfy employee wage
10 obligations in the ordinary course; second, to reimburse
11 employees for our pre-petition business-related expenses, and
12 I'll be returning to this issue in a moment, Your Honor; third,
13 to pay sales commissions earned pre-petition by employees; and
14 fourth, to honor all pre-petition obligations related to the
15 debtors' union dues, independent contractor obligations,
16 medical insurance programs, vacation and leave time, workers'
17 comp obligations and retirement savings plans, and to continue
18 to provide these benefits in the ordinary course of business.

19 Your Honor, as the debtors believe the relief
20 requested in the interim order is well justified under the
21 Bankruptcy Code and consistent with established precedent in
22 this district, the debtors further believe that immediate and
23 irreparable harm will result if the relief requested on an
24 interim basis is not granted. Because the debtors' employees
25 are their most important asset, they are critical to the

1 success of these Chapter 11 cases. Suffice it to say, the
2 debtors' employees depend on their wages and benefits for their
3 families' livelihoods. If the debtors' ability to honor their
4 pre-petition obligations to their employees is delayed or
5 disrupted, many employees will suffer material hardship and may
6 seek alternative employment, thus jeopardizing the debtors'
7 reorganization efforts.

8 Finally, Your Honor, the debtors have had multiple
9 discussions with the U.S. trustee's office about the interim
10 wages order, and we have attempted to address all of the
11 trustee's issues. One issue does remain for today. The
12 trustee has requested a cap of 1,000 dollars per employee for
13 payment of reimbursable expenses between now and the second-day
14 hearing. Your Honor, the debtors estimate that they will owe
15 approximately 1.4 million dollars to approximately 2,500
16 employees over the next twenty days. This works out to a per-
17 employee average of approximately 560 dollars. However, Your
18 Honor, the debtors do estimate that approximately 270 employees
19 will submit reimbursement claims greater than 1,000 dollars
20 within the next twenty days, and some employees already have
21 done so.

22 Your Honor, we've provided copies of the debtors'
23 expense reimbursement policies to the U.S. trustee. These
24 policies are Sarbanes-Oxley-complaint, and we believe they
25 properly limit reimbursable expenses only to reasonable

1 business-related items. Expense reimbursements are made on a
2 daily basis as claims are processed. Thus, all or most of the
3 1.4 million dollars that the debtors anticipate to come due
4 within the next 20 days would be paid within the next twenty
5 days.

6 Your Honor, these are obligations that employees
7 incurred personally on behalf of the debtors, and we think it
8 would send an ominous message to current employees that the
9 reimbursements may not be paid in full when due if, in fact, we
10 were subject to the 1,000 dollar cap proposed by the trustee.

11 THE COURT: I'll hear what Mr. Schwartzberg has to
12 say about this. Perhaps after that compelling argument, he
13 will relent.

14 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: Your Honor, first, we did request
15 a list of who's getting what over 1,000, and that list hasn't
16 been supplied to us except in a general basis: 267 people over
17 1,000. We were advised to four people, one, including an
18 insider, who is getting in excess of actually 5,000. But,
19 generally, we would prefer on the first day, subject to greater
20 notice, that the expense paid over 1,000 dollars be set forth
21 for a final hearing so that parties-in-interest, if they have a
22 desire, can object and also, hopefully, so, in the interim, the
23 debtor could provide us with the list of creditors who are
24 getting over 1,000.

25 THE COURT: In another case that recently involved a

1 similar issue before me, your office consented to the following
2 elegant arrangement. Instead of there being an arbitrary limit
3 upon the payment of expenses or a twenty-day period for going
4 to the right number actually due and owing, because these
5 expenses were almost always credit card expenses in which a
6 credit card bill was being paid, at least in that case -- I
7 don't know if it's true in the case of Charter -- the office
8 agreed, through another one of your representatives, to permit
9 payments on the due date of the bill so that if a credit card
10 statement was due for an amount, say, of 2,000 dollars instead
11 of 1,000 dollars sometime within the 20-day period, it would be
12 payable on that due date so as to avoid adverse impact on
13 credit scores and the like. It seems to me that's not such a
14 bad approach. Is that acceptable?

15 MS. HOPE DAVIS: Yes.

16 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: Yes, Your Honor. That order could
17 be -- or the order could be noticed out to that -- or that we
18 actually received notice of part of the payment.

19 THE COURT: That's fine. I mean, the precedent is
20 Apex Silver Mines.

21 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: That's acceptable, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Does that work for you, by the
23 way?

24 MR. HESSLER: I think so, Your Honor. Just two
25 points. One, with reference to providing the list of

1 creditors, many of these expenses aren't filed yet. This is an
2 estimate based on historical averages, what will be coming in
3 the next twenty days. So we don't have a complete list to
4 provide, but we're happy to provide whatever information we do
5 have.

6 With regard to the proposed arrangement, I certainly
7 think it does work, Your Honor, as to credit cards. As to cash
8 expenses, 'cause this is almost all travel-related, so as to
9 cash payments that employees have made, perhaps as long as the
10 non-credit card part of an expense --

11 THE COURT: You don't have employees walking around
12 with suitcases filled with cash, do you?

13 MR. HESSLER: No, absolutely not, Your Honor. And I
14 would say maybe as long -- you know, we could -- if we can do
15 the credit card payment when due and then cash capped at 1,000
16 dollars per employee.

17 THE COURT: That sounds fine, 'cause I can't imagine
18 there'll be cash expenses at that level. That's not how people
19 behave.

20 MR. HESSLER: We'll edit the order appropriately,
21 Your Honor, and tender it to you.

22 THE COURT: Fine.

23 MR. HESSLER: Your Honor, the next item is 2C(2) on
24 the agenda, the debtors' shippers and lien claimants motion.
25 The debtors use approximately 325 shippers and ten warehousemen

1 for the delivery and storage of various types of electronic
2 devices that transmit cable, Internet and telephone services to
3 the debtors' customers. These parties may attempt to assert
4 liens on the debtors' goods based on state laws that permit the
5 retention of materials in transit or possession until
6 outstanding payments are made. As of the petition date, the
7 debtors estimate they have approximately one million dollars in
8 accrued but unpaid shipping charges. The debtors are seeking
9 authority on an interim basis to pay 600,000 dollars in charges
10 that the debtors expect will come due within the next twenty
11 days.

12 Your Honor, as to lien claimants, the debtors
13 routinely transact with contractors and vendors that install,
14 repair and provide parts for the debtors' telecommunications
15 networks and facilities. Failure to pay for these pre-petition
16 services could result in the contractors asserting and
17 perfecting mechanics' liens against the debtors' locations or
18 goods or refusing to perform ongoing obligations. As of the
19 petition date, the debtors estimate approximately 2.1 million
20 dollars of pre-petition lien claimant claims will be accrued
21 but unpaid. The debtors are seeking authority on an interim
22 basis to pay 1.2 million dollars in claims that the debtors
23 expect will come due within the next 20 days.

24 Your Honor, as the debtor, the debtors, believe the
25 relief requested in the interim order is justified under the

1 Bankruptcy Code and consistent with established precedent in
2 this district, the debtors further believe that immediate and
3 irreparable harm will result if the relief requested on an
4 interim basis is not granted. The timely payment of pre-
5 petition amounts owed to shippers and lien claimants is
6 necessary to preserve the debtors' ability to send and receive
7 equipment without interruption and, therefore, critical to the
8 survival of the debtors' businesses.

9 Lastly, Your Honor, the debtors have conferred with
10 the U.S. trustee's office about the interim relief requested,
11 and, to our knowledge, the trustee's office has no objections.

12 THE COURT: Let's confirm that.

13 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: No objection, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Fine. Is there anyone else who wishes to
15 be heard on this? It's approved.

16 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: Your Honor, the next item is 2C(3)
17 on the agenda, the debtors' customer programs motions. As
18 described in our motion, the debtors have a number of ordinary
19 and customary customer programs that are designed to attract
20 new subscribers and retain and upgrade existing subscribers.
21 Through these programs, the debtors offer various promotions,
22 incentives, discounts and price guarantees to grow and engender
23 the goodwill of their customer base. The proposed order, which
24 the debtors are asking the Court to enter on a final basis,
25 authorizes the debtors to honor the pre-petition obligations to

1 customers and to continue these programs in the ordinary course
2 of business. The debtors believe the relief requested is
3 consistent and routinely granted in this district. The debtors
4 further believe immediate and irreparable harm will result if
5 the requested relief is not granted. The marketplace for cable
6 services is extremely competitive. The debtors' customer
7 programs are even more needed following the debtors' Chapter 11
8 filings. Requiring the debtors to discontinue their customer
9 programs for at least twenty days would exacerbate any customer
10 anxieties about the debtors' ability to continue to provide
11 uninterrupted and exceptional service.

12 Here as well, Your Honor, we have conferred with the
13 U.S. trustee's office about the relief, and, to our knowledge,
14 the trustee's office has no objections.

15 THE COURT: Let's just confirm that.

16 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: No objection, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Fine. That's approved.

18 MR. HESSLER: Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, the
19 next item is 2C(4) on the agenda, the debtors' insurance
20 motion. As described in our motion, the debtors maintain a
21 comprehensive insurance program that provides coverage for the
22 standard range of potential liabilities. Like many
23 corporations, the debtors finance two policies through premium
24 financing arrangements with third-party lenders that allow the
25 debtors to spread the cost of the policies over time and to

1 preserve cash flows. Through this motion, the debtors are
2 seeking, on an interim basis, authority to: maintain existing
3 insurance policies and pay any pre-petition obligations that
4 may come due; enter into new insurance policies, as needed;
5 maintain pre-petition premium financing arrangements and enter
6 into new PFAs, as needed. Specifically, on an interim basis,
7 the debtors are seeking authority to pay 1.8 million dollars
8 that will come due within the next 20 days for deductibles,
9 financing and third-party administrator payments.

10 Your Honor, the debtors assert that the relief
11 requested in the interim order is consistent with precedent and
12 necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm. First of
13 all, the debtors' insurance policies are essential to
14 safeguarding the value of their business, property and assets.
15 Second, many of the insurance policies are required by
16 statutes, regulations or contracts that govern the debtors'
17 operations. And third, the U.S. trustee's guidelines for the
18 Southern District of New York require the debtors to maintain
19 coverage, insurance coverage, through their Chapter 11 cases.
20 Finally, Your Honor, the debtors have conferred with the U.S.
21 trustee's office about the interim relief requested, and, to
22 our knowledge, the U.S. trustee does not have any objections.

23 THE COURT: Once again, I'm going to ask Mr.
24 Schwartzberg to confirm that.

25 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: That's correct, Your Honor. We

1 have no objection to the requested relief.

2 THE COURT: The insurance motion is approved.

3 MR. HESSLER: Your Honor, the final item on today's
4 agenda is number 2C(5), the debtors' taxes motion. In the
5 ordinary course of business, the debtors collect sales taxes
6 from customers and incur taxes, such as use, franchise and
7 income taxes. The debtors also collect regulatory fees and
8 other similar charges and assessments on behalf of various
9 governmental authorities, which the debtors then pay to these
10 authorities for licenses and permits required to conduct the
11 debtors' businesses. Through this motion, which is proceeding
12 on interim and final basis, the debtors are seeking to continue
13 to collect and pay these taxes and fees without regard to
14 whether the obligations accrued or arose before or after the
15 petition date.

16 Your Honor, the debtors estimate that 4.3 million of
17 pre-petition taxes and fees owing to governmental authorities
18 will become due and payable within the first 20 days of these
19 Chapter 11 cases. Thus, the debtors are seeking authority to
20 pay this amount in the proposed interim order. The debtors
21 believe this request is supported by the Bankruptcy Code and is
22 similar to relief routinely granted in this district. Further,
23 the debtors believe entry of the interim order is necessary to
24 avoid immediate and irreparable harm. Most significantly, if
25 the debtors do not timely collect and remit applicable taxes

1 and fees, governmental authorities may suspend the debtors'
2 operations, file liens, seek to lift the automatic stay or
3 pursue other remedies that could harm the estates.

4 Finally, Your Honor, the U.S. trustee's office
5 requested, before the debtors filed the interim order, that we
6 insert language clarifying the 4.3 million dollars that we're
7 seeking to pay on an interim basis is for taxes and fees that
8 will become due and payable between the debtors' first and
9 second-day hearings. We did update the order to reflect that.

10 And with that, Your Honor, I think we addressed all
11 of the U.S. trustee's concerns.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Schwartzberg, one more time.

13 MR. SCHWARTZBERG: That's correct, Your Honor. We --
14 with the amended language, we have no objection.

15 THE COURT: Fine. It's approved.

16 MR. HESSLER: Your Honor, one point of clarification
17 for the debtors and for other parties is we're just seeking
18 confirmation on the record that all of the orders entered today
19 on an interim basis will be heard on a final basis at the April
20 15th hearing.

21 THE COURT: Yes. It may be, however, that, for
22 purposes of Rule 6003, doing the math, that the orders on a
23 final basis may be entered the following day on the 16th which
24 would be twenty days. But with that understanding, the answer
25 is yes.

1 MR. HESSLER: Thank you, Your Honor. With that, Your
2 Honor, we have nothing further for this morning.

3 THE COURT: Fine. Thank you very much. And I'll see
4 at least some of you again on Monday morning.

5 MR. HESSLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: But before you all leave, there's still
7 an open question of the hearing date for the disclosure
8 statement. And what I would like to do, while everybody is
9 present to hear it, is to -- I'm going to go off, I'm going to
10 confer, I'm going to come back. Nobody needs to stand. Stay
11 where you are.

12 MR. HESSLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 (Off the record)

14 THE COURT: Okay. This is one of the few times I
15 need a gavel. The 29th. April 29 at 10 a.m. And even though
16 I said 10 a.m. for the Monday hearing next week, I think it
17 would be more convenient for me if we did it at 11 a.m.. I
18 assume that's not going to mess up anybody's schedule.

19 MR. SCHROCK: No, that's fine, Your Honor. And just,
20 for objections, can we just -- I think the proposed order has a
21 week out for objections to be due on the disclosure statement.
22 Would that be --

23 THE COURT: What date do you have in mind? The 22nd?

24 MR. SCHROCK: Yes. Yeah, 22nd, 4:00?

25 THE COURT: That's fine.

1 MR. SCHROCK: Okay.

2 THE COURT: Okay, now we really are adjourned.

3 ALL: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 12:34 p.m.)

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I N D E X

E X H I B I T S

PARTY	NO.	DESCRIPTION	ID	EVID.
Debtor		Declaration of Greg Doody		

R U L I N G S

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Debtors' motion for entry of an order establishing certain notice, case management and administrative procedures granted	68	13
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I N D E X, cont'd

R U L I N G S

DESCRIPTION	PAGE	LINE
Debtors' motion for entry of an order authorizing debtors to (a) prepare a list of creditors in lieu of submitting formatted mailing matrix; (b) file consolidated list of debtors' 80 largest unsecured creditors; and (c) mail initial notices granted	69	10
Debtors' motion for entry of an interim order (i) authorizing operating debtors to use cash collateral; (ii) granting adequate protection to adequate protection parties; and(iii) scheduling a final hearing pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 4001(b) granted	81	19
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continue using their cash management system, bank		
accounts and business forms; (b)granting post-		
petition intercompany claims administrative expense		
priority; (c)continued investment of excess funds		
in investment accounts; and (d) authorizing		
continued intercompany arrangements and historical		
practices granted		
Debtors' motion for entry of interim order	87	7
establishing notification and hearing procedures		
for transfers of common stock granted		
Debtors' motion for entry of an interim order	92	22
authorizing, but not directing, debtors to (a) pay		
certain pre-petition compensation and reimbursable		
employee expenses; (b) pay and honor employee medical		
and other benefits; and (c) continue employee wages and		
benefits programs granted		

I N D E X, cont'd

R U L I N G S

DESCRIPTION	PAGE	LINE
Debtors' motion for entry of an interim order authorizing, but not directing, debtors to pay pre-petition claims of shippers, warehousemen and miscellaneous lien claimants	94	15
Debtors' motion for entry of an order authorizing, but not directing, debtors to honor certain pre-petition obligations to customers and to otherwise continue certain customer programs and practices in the ordinary course of business granted	95	17
Debtors' motion for entry of an interim order authorizing, but not directing, debtors to (a)maintain pre-petition insurance policies; (b)enter into new insurance policies; (c)maintain premium financing agreements; and (d)enter into new premium financing agreements granted	97	2

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DESCRIPTION	PAGE	LINE
Debtors' motion for entry of an interim order	98	15
(a)authorizing, but not directing, debtors to		
remit and pay certain taxes and fees; and		
(b)authorizing and directing banks and other		
financial institutions to honor related checks		
and electronic payment requests granted		

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Lisa Bar-Leib, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

LISA BAR-LEIB

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Date: April 1, 2009